



KENT ON SUNDAY



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DISABILITY ROW AT KCC

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

"HARMFUL" changes to adult social services in Kent have left hundreds of people with learning disabilities and those who work closely with them angry and disappointed.

Kent County Council has been accused of putting finances over its obligations to the Government's programme to improve the rights, choices and independence of people with learning disabilities.

The authority said it is restructuring its adult social services department but the changes will not impact on 'direct services'.

KCC supports around 2,000 adults with learning disabilities across the county.

Steven Chapman, co-chair of the Kent Partnership Board, which is made up of people with learning disabilities and influential people who work in the field, said: "If it was money coming off housing or something it would be different – people would be shouting out."

"Because it is people with learning disabilities they think it is alright. Unfortunately, as Oliver Mills found out at the meeting, people do care and do understand."

Oliver Mills, director of Kent Adult Social Services (KASS), held a meeting last week to explain the changes and answer questions from the 100-strong audience.

The partnership board sent a letter to Mr Mills, which expressed concerns over the restructure, on Wednesday.

It included a quote from the Government's

Anger grows as County Hall accused of putting finance before the rights of adults with learning disabilities

learning disability programme, Valuing People Now, to explain the board's anger over KCC's changes: "The Government does expect other bodies – in particular local government and the NHS – to consult with partnership boards as their main source of information when planning and taking decisions that affect the lives of people with learning disabilities."

According to the charity Mencap, a person with a learning disability finds it harder to learn, understand and communicate. There are associated conditions and many people with cerebral palsy also have a learning disability, about 30 per cent of people with a learning disability also have epilepsy and people with autism often have a learning disability.

All people with Down's syndrome have some degree of a learning disability.

Chris Dillon, a board member, told Kent on Sunday: "They are taking control. It is like they are scared that people are getting too powerful and confident."

Mr Mills said the authority would take the comments in the letter "very seriously indeed".

"I met with the board to hear their views and answer questions," he said.

"We have to follow legal requirements when proposing changes to the management structure which means consulting with staff first before sharing the proposal more widely."

While 'direct services' may not be affected by the changes when management jobs are cut in the reshuffle, the way in which people with learning disabilities and those that work closely with them communicate with KCC will be changed. At the moment there are 12 district partnership groups that report to and sit on the partnership board. KASS wants to halve that number, a change that many see having a negative impact that will lead to fewer people getting their voices heard.

"These changes are going to be really harmful," Ms Dillon said. "Oliver Mills is so high up and they do not understand the progress and see what people with disabilities can do and achieve now."

The strategic development team at KCC has been overseeing the work of the board and of

the district groups as well as working with projects in the community since 2001 to make sure that Valuing People Now happens in Kent.

The team will no longer exist after the restructuring.

Des Sowerby, its director is taking 'voluntary' redundancy, he said: "I am hurt and amazed. It feels like a nonsense and they have come up with these proposals which are undermining the work we have been doing for years."

Mr Sowerby said people were angry because the reorganisation was being imposed too quickly.

He said: "I've been pressing to say we have got to get ourselves ready for Valuing People Now and making sure we start employing more people with learning disabilities and building up people's knowledge, but I have been held back because of this and we are not going to be ready."

"They [KCC] have resorted to the old-fashioned way with a bunch of managers producing a plan when we have spent years saying we will do away with it so I understand why they are angry. It is like gratuitous violence – they do not have to do it this way."

He added: "People realise the world has to move and change, but what they are saying is that it is not okay for the big cheeses at KCC to dictate it."

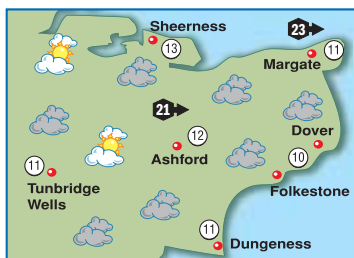
KASS director Mr Mills added: "As part of this consultation we will continue listening and working with the partnership board and others when looking at the proposals. There is no intention in rushing through the process."

"The focus of the proposals is not to save money but to enable people with learning disabilities to decide how they want both district partnership boards [groups] and the Kent partnership board to be supported."

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Kent today



TODAY: There will be a few sunny spells around during the day but there will always be a good deal of cloud as well. Fresh westerly winds. Staying mild for December. Max temp 10-13°C (50-55°F).

TONIGHT: Cloudy skies but it will remain dry across the region. Brisk westerly winds. Min temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	14	57	London	cloudy	12	54
Belfast	cloudy	12	54	Liverpool	cloudy	13	55
Birmingham	rain	11	52	Manchester	cloudy	12	54
B'mouth	cloudy	13	55	Newcastle	cloudy	12	54
Bristol	cloudy	11	52	Norwich	fair	12	54
Cardiff	cloudy	12	54	Oxford	cloudy	12	54
Cork	cloudy	12	54	Southsea	cloudy	12	54
Edinburgh	rain	12	54	S'hampton	cloudy	12	54
Glasgow	rain	12	54	Southport	sun	-	-
Isle of Man	cloudy	12	54	Swansea	cloudy	11	52
Leeds	cloudy	12	54	Torquay	cloudy	11	52

Sun & moon

Sunrise	8.00am	Sunset	3.48pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	2.00am	Moonsit	12.02pm	3.48pm to 8.00am

High Tides

	today	tomorrow
	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	05.36 5.8 18.24 5.5	06.45 5.7 19.30 5.5
Margate	06.28 4.1 19.21 4.0	07.37 4.0 20.24 4.0
St Mary's	11.42 4.6 - -	00.21 4.5 12.51 4.5

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells. max 10C min 4C	thursday Cloudy. Dry. max 5C min 1C
tuesday Patchy fog. max 7C min 3C	friday Sunny spells. max 5C min 1C
wednesday Cloudy. Dry. max 6C min 2C	saturday Cloudy. Dry. max 5C min 1C

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Police use road traffic to accidents highlight drink drive message



CRASH: Lee Staples, 27, was unable to explain why he hit this parked police car while 'career' criminal Irishman Stephen O'Reilly (right) was jailed for nine years after causing the death of a man on the M2



By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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A CHRISTMAS drink and drug-driving campaign has resulted in more than 140 motorists being arrested on Kent's roads.

Since the beginning of the scheme, which started on December 1, four people have been killed in accidents and a further five seriously injured.

This week police highlighted a number of recent convictions to help drive home the message that motorists should take care behind the wheel, no matter what time of year it is.

One conviction was of Irishman Stephen O'Reilly, who was jailed for nine years on Tuesday for causing the death of a 52-year-old man in a collision on the M2, near Sittingbourne.

O'Reilly was travelling at more than 110mph immediately before the crash and was also drinking beer.

Insp Paul Sellwood described him as a

"career criminal" who had already received a lifetime driving ban in Ireland.

He said: "This case acts as a stark reminder to any motorist who kills somebody when driving in a dangerous manner in Kent.

"When you get behind the wheel of a car you have a responsibility to yourself, your family and other road users.

"The loss of a loved one over the Christmas period is felt even more keenly than at other times of the year and that degree of responsibility should never be underestimated. When it is, the courts clearly take a dim view."

In a separate case, 30-year-old motorcyclist Ross Humphreys was banned for three years and ordered to pay a total of £1,500 for being over the limit when he crashed his bike in May last year. His pas-

senger, who was not wearing a helmet, died.

Insp Sellwood said: "This tragic case proves there is no safe limit. Modern scientific methods can easily calculate intoxication levels back to the time of the collision.

"The best and only advice we can give is don't drink at all. If you do, make alternative arrangements to get home.

"Humphreys now has to live with the terrible knowledge that he's responsible for the death of his best friend and he's unable to drive for three years.

"This will affect virtually every aspect of his working and personal life."

Police also highlighted a case that did not involve drink or drugs, but did involve careless driving and serious injury being caused to two police officers.

Lee Staples, 27, was unable to explain why he crashed into a marked patrol car that was parked on the hard shoulder of the M2, in April.

He was disqualified for a year.

Help KoS to make a difference this Christmas

KOS Media's Kent Kids for Christmas appeal will be running throughout the festive period and gives readers the chance to help children across the county.

By buying this edition of the award-winning Kent on Sunday for 60p you will be helping the children's charities that work with young people who face disadvantages such as disabilities and homelessness.

Readers are being urged to con-

tinue purchasing the Christmas charity editions and making the small contribution next Sunday and on January 4 so that children can continue to benefit from our appeal. From January 11 the paper will again be free.

All the profits from the cover price will go to the appeal, and the wholesalers and newsagents who distribute this paper to you are helping by only working at cost price.

Since the launch of the festive fund-raising project four years ago more than £30,000 has been donated to various children's charities in Kent.

Last year, £2,000 was donated to Demelza Hospice Care for Children and a further £7,000 went to the Help a Kent Child appeal, which passes on the money to a number of innovative charities across the county.

Paul Stannard, KOS Media's

managing director, said: "By buying this edition of KoS you have already made a contribution to our Christmas appeal.

"Our generous readers have helped hundreds of Kent kids but we want this year to be our best yet. By making the small contribution of 60p you really can make a difference to a young person's life and the local charities that rely on donations to keep providing their invaluable support."

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The real thing

Rock legends to perform gig in Kent forest

By **STEVE KNIGHT & MARLIKE COX**

STATUS Quo fans need accept no imitation when the legendary rockers perform in Kent for real next summer.

It was reported in a national newspaper last month that members of Dover Town Council were tricked into wining and dining a conman who claimed to be the band's frontman Francis Rossi, even though he bore little resemblance to the star.

Officials now deny they were tricked, but there will be no confusion when the Quo visit Kent next year as part of the Forestry Commission's summer concert season.

They will play at Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest, near Goudhurst, on Saturday, June 6.

Speaking exclusively to Kent on Sunday, Rossi confirmed that fans who attend the gig will receive the real deal.

He said: "Our fans in Kent can be assured it will be 100 per cent me live on stage at Bedgebury Pinetum next summer and not the impersonator that recently attended a function in Dover."

"We played to three sold-out forest shows last year and are delighted Kent is part of our touring plans for 2009. It will be a happy return to the venue where we last performed to a capacity crowd in 2003."

Dover Town Council is now taking action against a national newspaper for



WELCOME: (Left to right) Jordan Sehmby, Francis Rossi, Mike Webb and Loren Selby

allegedly printing stories about its members being tricked, despite having been told of the inaccuracy.

Town clerk Michael Webb told our sister paper Yourdover the only person duped was a former councillor Vic Matcham, who believed the impersonator was Rossi.

Mr Webb made contact with the band after the story broke and was able to meet Rossi backstage at Wembley Arena last Saturday.

Genuine

He said: "When I met Francis Rossi, I told him I wanted to see his dental records, his DNA and a copy of his fingerprints to prove he wasn't an imposter."

"But he convinced me, particularly with his amazing guitar-playing."

Mr Webb was accompanied on his visit to Wembley by Miss Dover Loren Selby and Junior Miss Dover Jordan Sehmby.

Dover Carnival Association chairman Mandie Sehmby said: "He (Rossi) was absolutely lovely and genuine. When he first walked in and saw the girls in their dresses, he just said 'Oh wow!'."

"He took the time to chat to them and had a real sense of fun."

Tickets for the Forestry Commission concert went on sale on Friday priced £32, subject to booking fee. Proceeds from the gig will be pumped back into a variety of environmental and social woodland projects.

Call 01842 814612 or book online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music.



News and sport updated daily online

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Church to go solo?

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has claimed it would "not be the end of the world" if the Church of England was disestablished.

Dr Rowan Williams, who is the Church's most senior figure, told the New Statesman he felt there was a "certain integrity" to a church that was free from state sanctions.

However, he also said disestablishment should only occur for the right reasons.

Dr Williams said: "I think the motives that would now drive disestablishment from the state side would be mostly to do with trying to push religion into the private sphere, and that's the point where I think I'd be bloody-minded and say, 'Well, not on that basis.'"

• See p7 for the Archbishop's Christmas message.

Counterfeit seizure

A CHRISTMAS crackdown by Kent Trading Standards officers led to the seizure of more than 2,000 potentially dangerous toys.

They formed part of a larger haul of nearly 4,500 counterfeit items that also included clothing and footwear.

Officers seized the goods during raids at five premises in Dartford and Snodland last week, with stock also taken from people using online auction sites from properties in Thanet and Romney Marsh.

The seized toys are currently being safety-tested, with the alleged offenders being dealt with on suspicion of the sale of counterfeit goods.

To see this clip search 'beanstalk' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Take a peek glimpse at one of the top pantomimes showing in the county this festive season...

Packed Priestfield guaranteed as Gills get ready to face Villa

THE last few hundred tickets for Gillingham's FA Cup tie with Aston Villa go on sale today, with Priestfield set for its first sell-out in more than five years.

Despite ticket prices being increased by 15 per cent on a normal home game, the prospect of watching England stars Gareth Barry, Ashley Young and Gabriel Agbonlahor has seen Gills fans turn out in force.

Supporters with season tickets or ticket stubs from the last two home games queued for more than an hour at times this week to get their hands on the prized tickets.

With a busy day expected yesterday at the League Two club's home game against Brentford, three sides of the ground have sold out completely.

Only seats in the uncovered Brian Moore Stand remain for the game on January 4, but Gills chief executive Mark Jones does not expect many to be left when they go on general sale at 10am today.

"I would imagine there would be some left, but maybe only 200 or so," he said. "We are talking about a very small number and we'll be full on the corporate side as well."

"I've always thought the potential of the club is enormous and this shows it."

If Villa sell out their 1,500 allocation it will be the first time Priestfield will be completely sold out since September, 2003, when 11,400 crammed in to watch Gills beat West Ham 2-0 in Division One.

Regardless of the result, Gills are set to bank at least £300,000 from the one-off game, which will be shown live on television.

The figure could rise substantially if manager Mark Stimson could force a replay at Villa Park, where Gills would take home 45 per cent of the gate.

The club have already seen a surge in interest, with ticket sales for yesterday's game and the visit of Wycombe Wanderers next Sunday higher than normal.

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Report finds KCC invested £3m after alert went unheeded

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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KENT County Council invested £3 million in a doomed Icelandic bank because an employee did not read an email warning against it.

That is one of the findings in a PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) report detailing how and why the authority lost £50m in the nation's crisis-hit banking system.

Investment advice firm Butlers has since been criticised for failing to raise concerns about Iceland at a meeting with KCC officers just a day before the email was sent, and for only sending it to a single member of staff.

On Tuesday, finance cabinet member Cllr Nick Chard and director of finance Lynda McMullan spoke to Kent on Sunday about the report's findings.

Cllr Chard said: "We had our quarterly meeting with Butlers on September 29, when the issue with Iceland was not raised."

"The following day an email was sent to a junior member of staff advising KCC to downgrade the Heritable Bank from its counter-party list, but he was off work that afternoon and did not see it."

"The next day he came in as usual and made the £3m deposit with Heritable prior to reading the email. Prior to that, all the advice we received was followed."

"Fundamentally, we did what the Government expected us to do and that was to spread our risk and deposits over many institutions."

Ms McMullan added: "The remaining £47m could not have been saved. All of the deposits were placed in accordance with the list Butlers had advised us on."

The money KCC has frozen in Icelandic banks is the most of any authority in the country.

About £18m is being held by the UK-based Heritable Bank, with the remaining £32m split between Landsbanki and Glitnir. Ms McMullan said KCC was working hard to recover all the money lost, but

Email warning was missed in £50m Iceland banking fiasco

that discussions were ongoing with the banks.

She added: "Money in the bank used to be a euphemism for safety, but it's not any more. Everything has been turned upside down and everything is different."

"All we were doing was putting money in the bank. It was not our policy at all to invest in high-risk areas to attempt to make high returns."

KCC is expected to place less reliance on credit rating systems as a result of the Icelandic crisis, which means its relationship with Butlers is likely to be reduced in future.

The treasury system is also to be overhauled in response to the report. Emails being sent to several employees rather than one is reported to be one of the changes being implemented.

Although the PWC report broadly clears the council of major mistakes over its investment decisions, it did suggest that in other cases officers failed to keep detailed records of transactions that "may have resulted in additional discussion around some of the deposits".

Cllr Derek Smythe, Labour's deputy group leader on the county council, said: "This episode has raised some very serious questions. There clearly needs to be

a re-assessment of how these investments are managed. There has been too much dependence on the advice given by Butlers, when a more rounded and predictive approach to investments is needed."

"As PWC says, there needs to be a proper balance in investments between returns and risk."

Fellow Labour councillor Roger Truelove said: "We need to know the Tory administration is prepared to accept democratic responsibility for the losses council taxpayers have sustained."

"The issuing of this small report has taken sufficiently long for the administration to avoid last week's scrutiny meeting."

"There are lessons for an overconfident administration to learn."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Gay killer is jailed

A MAN who stabbed his gay lover to death after a heavy drinking session has been jailed for four-and-a-half years.

Kenneth Harman, 55, from Tonbridge, was found guilty at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday of the manslaughter of 61-year-old Michael Castle.

Harman was initially charged with murder, in February, after his partner was found dead on his River Medway houseboat. The trial heard how witnesses had reported seeing and hearing arguments between the pair. Mr Castle died from a stab wound to the chest.

Biker hurt on A2

A BIKER suffered serious injuries in a crash on the A2 near Pepperhill on Wednesday.

The London-bound carriageway was closed after the accident, which happened at 8.45am, causing four miles of tailbacks.

The motorcycle was involved in a collision with a car and the rider was treated at the scene by air ambulance staff.

To see this clip search 'Flood' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



England rugby star Toby Flood on helping raise funds for Demelza

Judges pull the plug on singer's TV gigs

SINGER Jonathan Mills says his elimination from a popular Channel 4 music show did not come as a huge disappointment.

The 20-year-old from Tunbridge Wells was voted off by the judges on last Sunday's episode of Orange Unsigned Act.

Had he won, Jonathan – who performs under the stage name Klaus Says Buy The Record – would have secured a contract with Universal Records.

But the youngster says he was unfazed by the decision to drop him from the contest by the judges DJ Jo Whaley, presenter Lauren Laverne and Blur guitarist Alex James.

He said: "It was an amazing experience but I didn't really care that much about winning. I had a great time meeting lots of new people and performing at different venues and that was enough for me."

"The problem with the show was it was getting too hyped up, with too much attention on the judges."

"The audience didn't really get to see the fun side of the competition."

Jonathan's MySpace page has been littered with fans' comments since he started appearing on the show, and he said he was grateful for the support.

"I had quite a lot of messages from female fans, so my girlfriend wasn't very happy with that, but it's been great how supportive everyone has been," he said. "I've even been recognised on the street, but I don't think that's going to last much longer."

Jonathan will have a chance to re-enter the competition early next year when the



VOTED OUT: Jonathan Mills says his time on the show was "amazing"

viewing audience is asked to vote for the best of the rest, while he also has an upcoming tour and the release of an EP to look forward to.

He said: "I don't think things will get much bigger for me than they are at the moment. As long as I can carry on writing and playing music and people continue to enjoy it, then I'll be happy."

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'Tis the season to re-heat and recycle

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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HOUSEHOLDS in Kent produced 22,000 tonnes of waste over the Christmas and New Year period last year.

Now the Kent Green Party has set down a challenge urging people to have a greener and less wasteful festive season.

Dr Hazel Dawe, the party's chair, said: "We want everyone to re-use packaging, re-heat appropriate foods, redistribute usable goods to charity shops or use them as presents.

"Reclaim unwanted furniture for second-hand use, rot down all kitchen waste into compost, recycle what cannot be re-used and above all re-educate the whole household about redeeming the maximum benefit from the money we all spend at Christmas time."

Kent County Council said the 22,000 tonnes figure included rubbish collected in each district as well as that managed by its waste recycling centres.

Only 23 per cent of the waste, 5,000 tonnes, produced in Kent last Christmas and New Year was recycled – despite the fact that 80 per cent of household rubbish is recyclable. The rest was sent to landfill.

Nationally, the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management estimates that this Christmas the country will create three million tonnes of rubbish – enough to fill 400,000 double-decker buses.

KCC's figures show that four per cent more waste was produced in December last year, 61,000 tonnes, compared to that in November and January, in which households threw out 58,000 tonnes of rubbish for both months.

The authority is keen for people in the county to have a green Christmas and is launching a new campaign working with the national Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to encourage people to recycle small electrical items at their local recycling centre rather than throwing them in their dustbins.

A spokesman said: "Radio adverts will start on Boxing Day in time for the sales. The main message is 'Bring It, Don't Bin It'."

Computers 4 Africa, a charity based in Maidstone, takes people's unwanted PCs and laptops and sends them to schoolchildren in Africa, which has the lowest ratio of computers to people in the world.

Households will create around 22,000 tonnes of rubbish over festive period



WHAT A WASTE: KCC is keen for people in the county to have a green Christmas and has a new campaign to highlight recycling

The wrapping paper used for the country's gifts is equal to 50,000 trees, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and is enough to giftwrap the island of Guernsey.

Credit crunch

Christmas trees can also be recycled alongside your festive greetings cards. The charity Action for Sustainable Living estimates that around six million Christmas trees are bought each year in the UK, but only 750,000 (12.5 per cent) of them are recycled.

KCC said that people in Kent can take their real trees to household waste recycling

centres so that they can be composted. Some local councils also provide a collection service for the trees.

The authority also suggests buying a Christmas tree with roots that can be planted in the garden and used again.

Dr Dawe had some wise words for this Christmas, which is set against the gloomy backdrop of the credit crunch.

She added: "The eight 'Rs' – re-use, re-heat, redistribute, reclaim, rot down, recycle, re-educate and redeem – will help to keep household debts under control at the most challenging time of year.

"By all means, have a happy Christmas

and New Year – but remember, now is the season of waste, not just good cheer, and why waste money if a little thought will make it go further?"

For details of when your local recycling centre is open over the festive period and more tips for a greener Christmas visit www.kent.gov.uk and search 'recycling'.

For recipes suggestions to try with your leftover turkey, stuffing and party food try the Love Food Hate Waste campaign's website www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.

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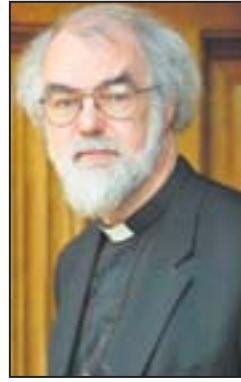
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'Christmas is a good time to think about what happens to the children in societies'



MESSAGE: Dr Rowan Williams

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has demanded that unborn children should not be regarded as "less than members of the human family".

In what will be seen as a thinly veiled attack on abortion, Dr Rowan Williams used his annual Christmas message to defend the rights of all children.

And writing in the wake of the Baby P scandal, he criticises a world where children have become "despised, exploited, even feared".

Dr Williams also warned the economic problems facing the world will lead to greater suffering for children.

He said it was Christianity that first showed God as a baby "in the form of complete dependence and fragility, without power or control", a concept he described as "shocking" and "deeply disturbing".

Dr Williams said we as a society

By **MICK WATKINS**

mick.watkins@kosmedia.co.uk

should more angry about what happens to children today.

He said: "As we look around the world, there is plenty to prompt us to far more anger and protest about what happens to children than we often seem to feel or express."

"In the UK this year there have been several public debates about childhood, as research has underlined the lack of emotional security felt by many children here, the high cost of divorce and family breakdown, the disproportionate effect of poverty and debt on children, and many other problems."

The Archbishop also pointed to the horrors visited upon children around the world, such as child soldiers in Africa and Sri Lanka, youngsters caught up in conflicts in Congo and the Middle East, and those faced with heavy burdens caused by Aids.

He also railed against the "insensitive treatment" given to child refugees and asylum seekers in "more prosperous countries".

Dr Williams finished by saying: "Christmas is a good time to think again about our attitudes to children and about what happens to children in our societies."

"Christians who recognise the infinite and all-powerful God in the vulnerability of a newborn baby have every reason to ask hard questions about the ways in which children come to be despised, exploited, even feared in our world."

"We all suspect that in a time of economic crisis worldwide, it will be the most vulnerable who are left to carry most of the human cost."

"The Holy Child of Bethlehem demands of us that we resist this with all our strength, for the sake of the one who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor; became helpless with the helpless so that he might exalt us all through his mercy and grace."

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Carter's key role

COUNTY council leader Paul Carter has been elected chairman of a new organisation set up to champion quality of life in the South East.

The South East England Councils (SEEC) body represents all 74 councils in the region.

Cllr Carter said: "SEEC will make sure councillors have a strong voice on a host of issues that affect quality of life, such as housing, infrastructure and transport."

Changes introduced by the Government will give council leaders a key role in setting strategy when the South East England Regional Assembly is abolished.

SEEC will work with the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) to deliver a new strategy to replace separate planning and economic development documents.

SEEC will elect a leaders' board that will share formal decision-making powers with Seeda. The board will include representatives from district, unitary and county councils.

Game chef targets countryside boost

A NEW campaign aims to encourage more people in Kent to get involved in the shooting sector and give the rural economy a boost, **writes Jenna Pudelek.**

The Countryside Alliance – a pro-hunting group which claims shooting provides 13,000 jobs across the South East and pumps £326 million into the economy – wants more young people to get involved in the industry.

Mark Gilchrist, 27, a chef who runs a business called Game for Everything near Cranbrook, said shooting was good for the environment and other wildlife.

"What people don't realise about shooting is that an excessive amount of food is put down for the birds – for example, maize for pheasants and thousands of different little birds are their feeding on it."

"Eating game, which is what I'm trying to get people to do, is fantastically healthy. And can we really justify flying in lamb from New Zealand at a cost to the environment and the British farming industry?"

"Eating rabbit has a zero carbon footprint – and if it is not eaten it'll probably be shot anyway."

Mr Gilchrist, who is passionate about game and has been running his food and catering business since 2005, said rabbit was very lean and 98 per cent fat free.

He suggested people try game, such as a pheasant and partridge, for dinner parties over the festive season and said he always



BANG TO RIGHTS: Chef Mark Gilchrist is a keen advocate of local game produce

cooks woodcock for Christmas Day. "I cannot really bear turkey – it's so dull," he said. "It's like a bad first date and I've always felt really strongly about it."

The shooting enthusiast, who took up the practice aged seven, is supporting the Countryside Alliance's Shooting Stars campaign to encourage more rural entrepreneurs.

"Their campaign is important. We need to

get more charismatic young people into agricultural businesses and shooting.

"It is slowly happening and what's good is that it shows you can make some money from countryside businesses," he said.

Job opportunities in the sector include gamekeepers, chefs, shooting school managers, beaters and other roles related to the hospitality sector that caters for shoot tourism.

Latest Government figures show that 400,000 fewer young people live in the countryside compared with 20 years ago, the Countryside Alliance said.

Michelle Nudds, South East director, said: "The Alliance is a longstanding supporter of the shooting sector, and is keen to highlight the contribution it makes to the rural and wider economy."

"By highlighting the future stars, we can prove that shooting has a bright and prosperous future, which will have obvious benefits for the countryside."

Mr Gilchrist uses only local produce and labour at his company and he has won high praise for his food. Top chef and television personality Gordon Ramsey said: "That rabbit pasta was delicious – try the game pie."

Kent-born Mr Gilchrist said: "I'm not being part of the herd. I want to contribute to the local economy and know I've tried my hardest to keep the countryside productive."

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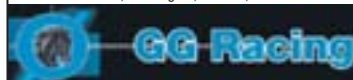
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Charity renews its identity appeal

Still no name decade after train death

A CHARITY has renewed its appeal for help in identifying a man who was found dead on a railway line a decade ago after he was hit by a train.

Missing People, which works with the police, coroners, hospitals and social services to resolve cases of unidentified people, both alive and dead, is urging everyone to help solve the mystery of the body found at Erith, near Dartford, on December 15, 1998.

Teri Blythe, head of the national charity's identification department, said: "In most cases an unidentified person is also a missing person, so it is likely this man will have family and friends out there who do not know his fate."

"We hope this appeal will bring crucial clues that will lead us to identify this body and put an end to someone's distress."

She said although the fact the man died on a railway line suggested he had committed suicide, the charity could not be sure.

Asked if he was possibly sleeping rough at

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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the time, she said: "This is the whole problem - we really do not know very much about the people."

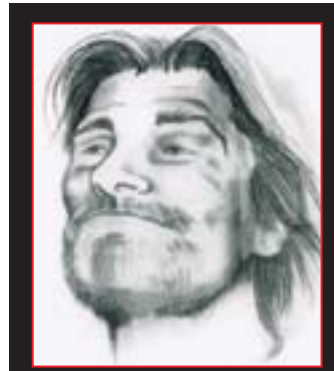
Ms Blythe said renewing appeals for information near the anniversary of a death can often jog someone's memory and help the charity with its tough job.

"That is what we hope," she said. "This case was 10 years ago. Ideally, at the time people would have come forward and suggested who it could have been."

"But we have not figured out the answers yet and there is nothing to say he might not be in the system, so we are hoping."

"You never know who might see the publicity and it is a good time now."

The man was found on a busy railway line and the body was not decomposed, which meant it was a recent death, she explained. So the date he was found was close to when he actually died.



WHO WAS HE?: A depiction of the man found on the railway in 1998

"The means the date is even more useful and might jog someone's memory," Ms Blythe added.

He was aged between 35 and 55, about 5ft 8ins, with brown eyes, black/greying collar-length hair and a goatee beard.

The man had full dentures for his upper teeth and partial dentures in his lower teeth.

He was found wearing black loafer shoes with a gold ornament on them, a long-sleeved blue shirt and grey trousers. He also had a key fob of a clear plastic teddy bear with three gold buttons inside it.

Missing People said it had checked all its records for clues to his identity but no conclusive match had been made.

If you have any information, call the charity's confidential and free 24-hour missing persons line on 0500 700 700, or email identification@missingpeople.org.uk.

For more information about the charity, visit www.missingpeople.org.uk.

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The marshal plan

TAXI marshals have been hired to supervise cab queues in Tunbridge Wells town centre over Christmas.

The marshals have been working at the taxi rank outside the railway station this weekend, and will be on duty on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, between 10pm and 3am.

They have been provided by local company PM Secure and are registered with the Security Industry Authority.

They will be wearing high-visibility jackets and carrying a radio which will give them direct communication with CCTV operators, the police and Pubwatch premises.

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership has funded the move.

"This is about reassurance", said Sgt Pete Heaton of Kent Police. "Taxi ranks can often be a flashpoint for disorder, particularly late at night at this time of year. The marshals will control crowds, defuse incidents and help to create a safer atmosphere."

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By TOM BETTS

A BOY from Margate has been awarded a multi-million pound compensation payout after the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital admitted being at fault for injuries he suffered during birth.

Four-year-old Oliver Lehan was left blind, brain-damaged and with cerebral palsy after the tragic events.

On Monday, Oliver's mother and her legal team settled for a lump sum of £770,000 with annual payments throughout his life of £135,000, increasing to £250,000.

Solicitors representing the hospital admitted staff at the QEQM had failed in their duty towards Oliver and the failures led directly to injuries that should have been avoided.

Candy Lehan, 44 at the time, was taken to the Margate hospital to have Oliver's birth induced on June 10, 2004. She was 39 weeks and two days into her pregnancy.

The events that led to Oliver's condition are detailed in his solicitors' Letter of Claim, written in March, 2005, and admitted by the East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, which manages the hospital.

Initial scans measuring foetal heart-rate were carried out and caused no concern, but shortly afterwards Candy became distressed by the length and severity of her contractions.

Midwifery notes record that a CTG scan – which records the foetal heartbeat and uterine contractions during pregnancy – began at 12.15am, but the hospital later said the recording was lost. About 25 minutes later, the midwife had difficulty in finding the baby's heart-rate but failed to call a doctor to assist.

At 1.10am a trace of the foetal

heart-rate showed an abnormality and an assessment at 1.15am was wrongly interpreted. A new CTG scan was started at 1.41am and showed that Oliver was not receiving sufficient oxygen.

A doctor assessed Candy at 2.15am and recognised the seriousness of the situation. He ordered an emergency Caesarean section and she was transferred to the delivery room.

Tribute

However, a delay of 55 minutes occurred before it was performed.

Oliver's brain was starved of oxygen and at birth he showed signs of severe asphyxia – a lack of oxygen in the blood.

Candy was told her son was unlikely to live for more than a few weeks, but it is now thought he will reach his teens. He is unable to speak, suffers with seizures and chest infections, is fed through tubes and will remain at the mental age of six weeks.

The compensation payout is based on experts' views on Oliver's needs for the remainder

of his life. Hospital solicitors agreed to pay the full amount after two previous attempts earlier this year to reach a settlement had failed.

His Honour Judge Simpkins, sitting at the High Court, Canterbury District Registry, approved the settlement reached on Oliver's behalf.

He described the case as "tragic", adding "it is hard to imagine more serious injuries".

The Lehans' solicitor, Darren Tamplin, a partner at Fairweathers solicitors in Canterbury, said: "This has been a complicated case, involving a wide range of expert witnesses and I am very pleased that we've been able to achieve this settlement for Oliver."

"I pay tribute to Candy's heroic efforts in caring for him in the most trying circumstances since his birth and to all the sacrifices that she has made to ensure that he has always received the best of care. I know how much being able to move to a more suitable home will improve the quality of both of their lives."

Candy said: "I'm so happy that Oliver's case has settled. We can now begin to look to the future rather than keep looking back. I can still barely believe the errors that were made at the hospital."

"It was just one failing after another, after another. I would like to think that no other expectant mother would be treated as I was, but you can't be sure."

Apology

"I know that Oliver's case led to a review of procedures and that nine of them were changed. I hope that Oliver's misfortune means that Margate hospital is a safer place for other babies to be born."

"It may seem as though he has won a huge amount of money, but we would give it all up to have Oliver well and healthy. He requires care 24 hours per day and needs a properly-adapted home."

An East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust spokesman said: "The Trust deeply regrets the injuries suffered by Oliver and would like to take this opportunity to repeat our apology to the family."

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Pair jailed for selling women

TWO people have been jailed for human trafficking women into the sex trade in Tunbridge Wells, writes Erica Jones.

Gerard Carroll, 51, and illegal immigrant Moi Cheng Chua, 47, were sentenced to a total of two-and-a-half years by Maidstone Crown Court.

Chua was working at a house in Mercer Street, Tunbridge Wells, where police officers believed a number of young Asian women were being used as prostitutes.

Chua was responsible for the premises and regularly deposited hundreds of pounds into various bank accounts belonging to people living outside of the Kent area.

Kent Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) arrested Carroll and Chua in March following an investigation into human trafficking for the sex trade.

Officers identified Carroll as a significant member of a much larger crime group responsible for human trafficking within the UK.

Carroll's involvement included placing and paying for advertisements in local newspapers and payment of rent and bills at another premises being used as a brothel in Lincoln. He regularly transferred money to Spain where he owned a number of properties.

Carroll taxed women between railway stations, a property in Mercer Street and a property in Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, that had recently been refurbished from old office space into a series of bedrooms. He also used premises in Elm Lane, Tonbridge, where he lived with a prostitute.

During the police swoop in March this year, five women were removed from premises throughout west Kent. The women admitted they had come to the UK illegally and had been employed into the sex trade by people unknown to them



SENTENCED: Gerard Carroll (left) and Moi Cheng Chua were both jailed

who they were in fear of. Most of the women were also in debt to these people for their travel costs to the UK and were forced to pay off this debt by working as prostitutes.

All five women were transferred to UK Border Agency who will be dealing with their welfare.

Trafficking victims are typically recruited using coercion, deception, fraud, the abuse of power, or outright abduction. Threats, violence, and economic leverage can often make a victim consent to exploitation. Many victims do not speak English very well and come from countries where endemic corruption means they are distrustful of official agencies such as the police.

Controlling

Fear of retribution against them and their families also stops them from reporting abuse to the police.

Carroll, from Tonbridge, pleaded guilty on November 12 to trafficking women within the UK for sexual exploitation and conspiring to control prostitution for gain. He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

Malaysia Chua, from Tunbridge Wells, on November 12 pleaded guilty to controlling prostitution for

gain at Mercer Street and transferring criminal property by laundering money. She was sentenced to one year in prison and the court ordered she be deported upon completion of her sentence.

Det Insp Tom Richards, from Kent Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: "Human trafficking isn't a problem specifically in Kent, but we are aware of activities of crime groups who use the county as a temporary base for their criminal activities."

"It is believed the women identified in this investigation were transported around the country and not just used as prostitutes in Kent."

"Kent Police remains committed to ensuring that vulnerable victims exploited in this vile trade are identified, rescued and provided with appropriate support and protection."

"It is important that we work with our partners to ensure that every bit of protection and support is provided to the victims who can sometimes feel reluctant to come forward and escape what has been a continuous cycle of abuse and misery."

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Five new members to join College of Canons

THE Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams has appointed five new Canons of Canterbury.

Three are clergymen, two are lay people, and all are now members of the College of Canons and will take part in the election of a new Archbishop when the post falls vacant.

Those who have been chosen are:

- The Reverend Bob Coles – Priest in Charge of the parishes of Chislehurst, St Mary the Virgin; Minster, St Mary the Virgin; Monkton, St Mary Magdalene; and St Nicholas at Wade, St Nicholas.

- The Reverend Rob Mackintosh – director, Diocesan Board of Ministry and Training. He is married to Gill and they live in Sandwich.

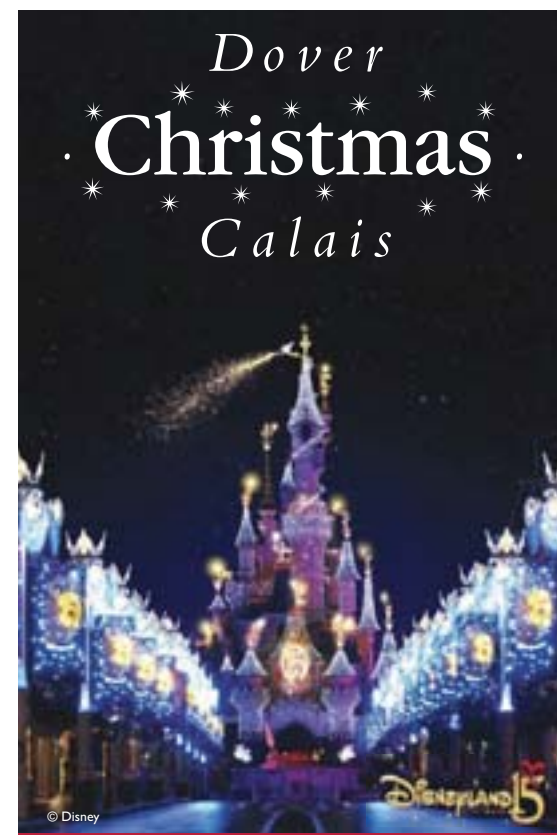
- The Reverend Roger Martin – Rector, Saltwood St Peter and St

Paul. He is also a governor at Saltwood Primary School and Brockhill Park Performing Arts College as well as vice-chairman of the Folkestone and Hythe District Scout Association.

- Raymond Harris – a long-standing member of the Church, who is currently chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, which is responsible for all the financial matters of the diocese.

- Val Wallis – the Lay Chair of the Weald Deanery.

The office of Honorary Canon dates back to 1840 and a maximum of 30 Honorary Canons of Canterbury may be appointed at any one time. According to the Cathedral's Constitution, those appointed must have given "signal service" to the Church of England or to the Anglican Communion.



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Rochester sets the scene for television guide's festive teaser

All clued up in a familiar High Street

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk



GIVE US A CLUE: Rochester High Street, as featured in the Christmas Radio Times (below)



can be seen on a television screen through a window of one of the buildings on the right.

And rather than pointing to neighbouring Medway towns Chatham or Gillingham, a street sign shows the way to Lark Rise to Candleford, after the BBC1 costume drama.

Rochester and its High Street are known throughout the world thanks to the work of Victorian literary giant Charles Dickens,

who lived nearby and described parts of the town his novels. However, Radio Times bosses admitted historical value played a minor role in their decision to use it for the magazine's Christmas edition.

A spokesman said: "We commissioned a photographer, who gave us a shortlist of high street scenes. We chose Rochester because it is a classic, busy high street with enough signs and street furniture to help with adding our Christmas TV clues."

Radio Times' "legendary Christmas issue" is in shops now, priced £2.10.

Answers to the High Street game will be revealed in the following issue, which goes on sale on December 27.

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Hit-and-run appeal to 4x4 witness

POLICE are appealing for a crucial witness to come forward after receiving new information about a fatal hit-and-run on the A20.

Officers want to trace the driver of a blue Toyota 4x4 after the accident in Harrietsham, which claimed the life of a 70-year-old woman.

A fresh appeal was launched by police last week in a bid for more information about the incident in which pensioner Shirley Leedham was hit by a driver who failed to stop, at 8.40am on October 9.

Sgt Guy Ditcher, who is leading the investigation, said: "A woman contacted police after seeing the appeal on television and said she was driving along the A20 from Leeds towards Harrietsham on that Thursday, at about 8.35am.

Justice

"As she came off the roundabout, a dark blue Toyota 4x4, with 53 in the registration number, overtook her. It was being driven by a white man with dark hair. We want to hear from this driver as he might have witnessed the accident. There is no suggestion he was involved in any way."

More than 1,000 drivers were questioned after the accident.

Sgt Ditcher said: "We want justice for Mrs Leedham. Her family are in limbo as they don't know what happened.

"Closure will only come when we uncover the truth.

"They do not bear a grudge – all they want is the truth."

MP defends Chatham over low ranking in environment survey

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

HOMEOWNERS living in one of Kent's poorest towns have been labelled "green villains" for their alleged lack of concern about the environment.

Chatham is ranked joint seventh in a table of Britain's "environmentally unconcerned", which was based on a selection of more than 350 databases and surveys about people's lives.

The findings were compiled by marketing specialists CACI on behalf of The Observer newspaper.

Director of marketing Jonathan Burston said "enthusiastic greens" tended to be well-educated and on higher-than-average incomes.

He added: "The environmentally unconcerned tend to be male, interested in science fiction and fantasy, generally read tabloid newspapers and are more likely to be football supporters and to have been refused credit.

"They have little or no concern for the environment. They are less likely to recycle or use energy-saving light bulbs."

The ME4 postcode area of Chatham shares the same rank as the Sheffield suburb of Tinsley in the table, which names Basildon in Essex as the most environmentally unconcerned town in Britain.

Redland in Bristol is listed top of the enthusiastic greens table.

Mr Burston added: "Britain's green heroes and villains can be found across the country. As everyone from

'Green villains' tag unfair on poorest

local authorities to global brands look to get green messages out to people, more notice needs to be taken of green social groupings and the diversity within."

Chatham MP Jonathan Shaw questioned the validity of the CACI report and said people who choose not to recycle are not necessarily less eco-friendly than those who do.

He said: "If someone is getting in a large car to take a couple of bottles to the bottle bank, it kind of defeats the object.

"In Chatham and the rest of Medway we are seeing more people travelling by bus, which is obviously a good thing.

"I've spoken to a number of people in the town who are very keen to help increase the town's recycling contribution, so one has to question the science behind this report.

"What's important is making sure access to recycling equipment is made as easy as possible because we could all most certainly do more."

Cllr Phil Filmer is Medway Council's cabinet member for front-line services and responsible for the authority's recycling strategy.

He also doubted the reliability of the report.

Cllr Filmer said: "It's never been my understanding that people in Chatham are not interested in recycling. In fact, I find they are very good about it and have

helped Medway increase its recycling rate to almost 35 per cent.

"Some areas are obviously better than others but we are working hard to address this, such as targeting those people who live in flats, for instance."

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For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page 16.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages 54 & 55.

HOLLYWOOD icon Dame Judi Dench has urged people to walk off their Christmas dinner with a stroll through a wood.

The Oscar-winning actress, who plays M in the James Bond films, is backing the Woodland Trust's annual Christmas card recycling scheme, which raises money for the charity.

Dame Judi said: "I find our woods and forests absolutely remarkable.

"They have follies, grottos, waterfalls and surprise views, not forgetting the stunning natural beauty of the trees and glades. They have been a source of inspiration for artists and writers for centuries and provide a truly magical setting for a walk this Christmas.

"The Woodland Trust do a marvellous job looking after woods in Kent and I applaud their efforts. You can support them too. Recycle your Christmas cards in the trust's scheme and help them plant the woods of the future."

The Woodland Trust has 30 sites in Kent, including Blean Wood in Canterbury and Hucking Estate in Hollingbourne. The county has just 10.6 per cent woodland cover – compared with a UK average of 12 per cent and a European average of 44 per cent.

Last year the trust collected 73.6 million Christmas cards, enabling the charity to plant 17,000 trees in some of its 1,000 UK woods.

The trees are paid for through recycling credits, which is income paid by local authorities for waste that does not have to be dumped in landfill sites.

Dame Judi was backed by record producer Pete Waterman, who said: "Many people in Kent know of my enthusiasm for trains – it's the only way to travel.

"I love looking out of the window and watching the magic of nature as the seasons change.

"Nature is something we all take for granted and those who put so much time, effort and resources into preserving the



TRUST SUPPORT: Dame Judi Dench

countryside are largely forgotten. I am delighted to support the Woodland Trust's winter initiative of encouraging people to recycle their Christmas cards."

Chief executive Sue Holden said: "A walk in your local wood is a fantastic way to spend Boxing Day.

"While you enjoy your visit, think about recycling your cards with the Woodland Trust recycling scheme.

"Trees planted using the money generated will help plant more wonderful woodland for people to enjoy."

Christmas cards can be recycled at WHSmith, Tesco, TK Maxx, and Marks and Spencer throughout January. They are treated and eventually turned into new products such as tissue paper, photocopy paper or corrugated cardboard.

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Partnership anticipates seasonal rise in domestic violence

Crunch time for victims on home front

THE pressures of Christmas coupled with the credit crunch are expected to lead to an increase in domestic violence, experts say.

Kent Police are now working with the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) to provide victims of abusive partners access to free legal advice.

Steve Connor, NCDV's chief executive officer, told KOS Media: "Christmas is always a busy time for us, mainly because people are spending a lot more time together at home."

"Alcohol is a big factor because people may be drinking more at this time of year. The credit crunch and problems with money becoming tighter are also having an impact."

The charity offers victims of domestic violence to access free legal advice and representation.

It also helps people get non-molestation orders or injunctions to protect them from partners or ex-partners threatening or using violence against them.

Asked whether the NCDV had seen a rise in the number of victims using its services since the economic downturn, he said: "Definitely. There has been a sharp increase."

The partnership between the NCDV and Kent Police, which will publicise the charity's 24-hour helpline – available every day of the year across the county – was launched on Monday.

Chief Supt Lee Catling said officers would be able to refer victims to the NCDV for advice. He said it was too early for the force to know whether the credit crunch had impacted on domestic violence.

"But we would not dispute the fact there is likely to be increased tension, disharmony and violence," he said.

"That is why we have a Christmas campaign with additional resources. Launching this emphasises how important it is for us to give the best support to victims we can."

Mr Connor said although anyone can go to court and get an injunction, it was particularly difficult for people who do not qualify for legal aid but cannot afford solicitor's fees.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

He added: "Particularly in domestic violence cases people always fall through the net, so we are geared up to help anyone, regardless of their financial situation – and for free."

"We are different to most services because we are available to everyone: men, same-sex couples and anyone experiencing domestic abuse. We put people in touch with refugees, it is a very holistic service for everyone."

Chief Supt Catling said: "This will be a fantastic addition to the already substantial resources available to victims of domestic violence."

"What is unique about this is people can access it quickly and decisively, even out of hours, to get legal advice and protection for victims at the point they most need it."

Mid Kent Police have been carrying out welfare checks on people at risk of domestic abuse and a 30-year-old man has been charged with breaching a restraining order as part of a seasonal anti-domestic abuse campaign.

The drive to tackle domestic violence in Kent over Christmas is part of a wider national campaign launched this week by the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said: "For many, Christmas is a family time. But for some it is a time of fear, violence and isolation. I am determined to do all I can to protect women from becoming victims of these horrific crimes."

She said that next year a consultation would be launched to find out what more the Government can do to improve the safety of women in their homes, at work and in public.

Contact the NCDV's helpline on 0844 8044 999 or text NCDV to 60777 and the charity will call straight back.

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www.kentnews.co.uk



CORNERED: Economic woes are adding to the seasonal pressures for many families

MEDWAY Council has voted to merge Chatham South School and Medway Community College to form a new Church of England-sponsored academy.

The academy will cost up to £25 million and is due to be completed by 2012, but the schools will join forces in September 2010.

Vincent O'Mara, executive head of both schools, said: "It's a phenomenal opportunity for this part of Chatham."

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Shared space – a special place in the heart of Ashford

Kent Highway Services has just opened a bold new road scheme in time for Christmas.

The shared space allows drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to use the same open road area in a zomph zone. Gone are the traditional crossings, signs and road markings.

The scheme was pioneered in Holland, where it has successfully reduced traffic speeds and casualties. Now it has been introduced in Ashford - the first for Kent and the largest of its kind in the country.

It gives a completely new look to Ashford's old ring road. We've done away with the one-way circuit that was choking the town centre and introduced a new two-way road system to help visitors, businesses and residents.

Ashford's scheme was deliberately designed to be different. Extra features make it obvious you are somewhere special, with wide walkways for pedestrians, a block paving road surface and tall lighting columns. We worked closely with local access group and disability representatives during the design stage too, and the scheme includes a traffic light crossing and special guide rail for people who are visually impaired.

You'll find the scheme right outside Ashford's County Square shopping mall, which opened earlier this year. There's also a piazza area in Elwick Square which is set to become a popular stopping place for shoppers in the summer.

It's the first of a number of highway improvements planned as the town grows with future development, so if you haven't been to Ashford for a while, why not come along and try sharing!



Travel Update

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.



Shepway

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
current	24.12.08	Church Road, Folkestone	Lane closure – gas mains works
current	5.1.09	Cheriton High Street, Folkestone	Temporary traffic lights - gas mains works

Maidstone

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
current	2.3.09	East Sutton Road, Sutton Valence	Road closure – sewer mains works

Dartford

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
current	27.3.09	Burnham Road, Dartford	Temporary traffic lights - new water mains
current	30.4.09	High Road, Wilmington	Temporary traffic lights - new gas mains

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Castle will host first police dog trials in county

THE National Police Dog Trials will be held in the county in April for the first time in the competition's 49-year history, **writes Steve Knight.**

Categories such as obedience, weapon attacks and criminal-chasing will form part of the prestigious event, which will be held over four days at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone.

Kent Police officers have won an impressive six national dog titles in the last four years, strengthening the county's claim to host the competition.

Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas said: "Police dogs perform a crucial role in modern law enforcement and are an integral part of every police force."

"They can detect drugs, cash and explosives, and can help us find missing people, evidence and clues. They are a real asset and police dogs have long held the interest and fascination of the public."

"This event encourages the professional development of the handlers and their forces, giving competitors an opportunity to share good practice."

"We hope to give the public an insight into some of the work we do on their behalf and demonstrate how dog teams support local policing and communities."

About 30 officers from across the UK will take part in the trials, with Leeds Castle bosses expecting an average 5,000 visitors per day.

However, the first two phases of the event involve searching and tracking and will be held away from the castle so the dogs are not confused by extra scents.

Leeds Castle chief executive Victoria Wallace said staff were looking forward to the trials coming to Kent.

"We are delighted to host the National Police Dog Trials at the castle, which itself has a strong canine connection and has the only historic dog collar museum in the country," she said.

"We have been the beneficiary on many occasions of the work police dogs do to help ensure the security of the site during special events or high-level conferences."

"We are only too pleased to be able to offer such a wonderful backdrop to the event."

Kent Police have 48 working dogs handled by 32 trained officers.

Breeds include German Shepherds, cocker and cpringer cpaniels, labradors and Belgian malinois.

The National Police Dog Trials 2009 will take place from Thursday to Sunday, April 23-26. Admission is free.

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RURAL BEAT: Leeds Castle will provide the perfect backdrop for the police dogs and handlers

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Commons apology over claims about 'injured' police at climate camp protest



FACE OFF: Police and protestors during the Kingsnorth climate camp in August

Sting in tail for minister over U-turn

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE activists, politicians and academics who criticised the police response to the climate camp in Kent as provocative and disproportionate can now feel vindicated, the leader of the Green Party has said.

Vernon Coaker, the Government's police minister, had told MPs that 70 officers had been injured during protests at Kingsnorth power station in the summer, but he was forced to apologise to Parliament on Monday after a Freedom of Information request by the Liberal Democrats revealed there were only 12 reported injuries.

Only four, which were at the lowest level of seriousness, involved direct contact with another person, and the other eight included such mishaps as being 'stung on finger by possible wasp' and 'officer injured sitting in car'.

Dr Caroline Lucas, the Green Party's MEP for the South East, told KOS Media: "There was so much rhetoric at the time and it was an unfortunate attempt to paint people who take part in peaceful direct action as aggressive and dangerous."

"People were from all different backgrounds - there were people with children. "It is a fallacy to say those who take part in direct action are young people intent on having a fight and this vindicates that."

"I hope lessons will be learned because there will be more peaceful direct action as the Government continues to ignore its climate change obligations."

The Lib Dems said Mr Coaker had claimed more police had been injured at the August protest over plans for a new coal-powered plant at the Hoo Peninsula site to justify his claim that forces had acted "appropriately and proportionately".

Dr Lucas said: "I was at the camp and I was shocked to see the disproportionate level of policing, not just in terms of numbers but in the tactics they were using."

"It was enormously heavy and provoca-

tive. They were asking people to hand over things like board games, pens and pencils."

The operation was led by Kent Police and involved 1,400 officers including riot police, mounted officers, and marine and air support. It cost taxpayers £5.9 million.

Dr Lucas said: "We need to make sure there is much more sympathetic policing in future. It seemed they were trying to provoke the protestors with helicopters flying very low late at night. It was a campaign of intimidation."

Peter McDonnell, a spokesman for the climate camp, said the campaigners' legal team was preparing a dossier of complaints against the policing and it would be presented to Parliament in January.

He said: "The repressive policing at the camp was not about keeping law and order, it was about protecting E.ON's profit margins and preventing people from exercising their democratic right to protest."

"That ministers are trying to cover this up shows just how deep the collusion is over the Kingsnorth plant."

In reply to a Parliamentary question tabled by David Howarth, the Lib Dem justice spokesman, Mr Coaker admitted none of the injuries at the camp was a result of direct contact with protestors.

"I hope ministers and the police will now stop trying to portray peaceful protestors as somehow equivalent to terrorists or violent extremists," Mr Howarth said.

"MPs have been rightly exercised by political policing rearing its ugly head with the arrest of [Ashford MP] Damian Green. They should be just as concerned when the same tactics appear to be directed at peaceful protestors."

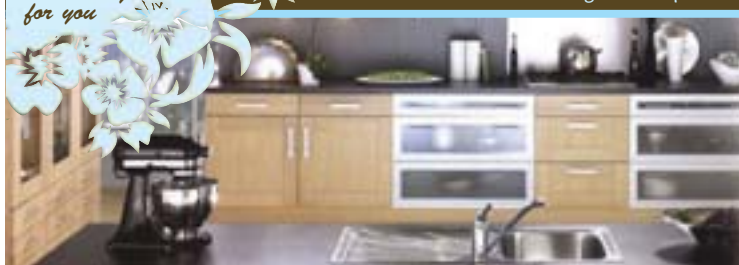
"In light of this new evidence, it has to be asked whether climate campers were so heavily policed because they posed any genuine threat of violence, or because they posed a challenge to Government policy?"

Kent's Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas said: "We consider it a measure of the success of the operation that so few injuries were sustained, both by officers and protestors, and that none was serious."

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- 11.45 - 12.30 Live DJ will play and see in midnight.
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Discovery replica finds new home in the Old World

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A **REPLICA** of a historic ship that helped establish the first English settlement in America has taken up residence in Kent.

Discovery was one of three vessels to leave London for the New World in December, 1606, and played an important role in the formation of the American colonies when it landed in what was to become Jamestown, Virginia, five months later.

Sir Thomas Smythe was the man who commissioned the construction of the ship – as well as that of its sister vessels Susan Constant and Godspeed – and the replica of Discovery is now kept at his former home of Westenhanger Castle, near Folkestone.

The 40ft boat was officially presented by representatives from both the United States embassy and the Jamestown UK group on Friday.

Westenhanger spokesman Mark Whitling, who is a distant relative of Sir Thomas, was delighted the castle had been chosen to house the vessel.

He said: "It's fantastic to have Discovery back where the man partly responsible for those historic voyages was born and lived. It's great for the castle and great for Kent as a whole."

"The ship came over from America a couple of years ago and visited locations in the South East – including Chatham Historic Dockyard and Dover – as well as elsewhere in the country, and the people from Jamestown UK said they were looking for a permanent home for it."



JOURNEY'S END: The replica Discovery at Westenhanger Castle, the former home of Sir Thomas Smythe who commissioned the original ship

"We carried out a lot of research into the history of Westenhanger Castle and we knew of its connections with Discovery, and that's why we put a bid in for it."

"Hopefully it will attract a lot of interest and encourage more people to visit us over the next few months."

The Jamestown UK group was set up to mark the 400th anniversary of the voyage to the New World.

Its chairman is Kent County Council deputy leader Cllr Alex King, who unveiled a plaque at Westenhanger, watched by Folkestone and Hythe MP Michael Howard and other dignitaries.

Cllr King said: "It does no harm to remind ourselves of how America was colonised, but Kent should also benefit from a tourism point of view."

"It was a long process to decide where the replica should end up and there were a number of bids, but we feel we have chosen the correct location in Westenhanger Castle."

In addition to the replica of Discovery, a statue of Pocahontas donated by the city of Norfolk, Virginia, was also unveiled at the castle on Friday.

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To make things a bit special, spread some English Provender Ploughman's Plum Chutney onto your crackers.

It is fabulously fruity and contains generous chunks of juicy plum for ultimate indulgence.

To really spoil you this holiday, the English Provender Company is offering four lucky KOS Media readers the chance to win a wonderful hamper crammed with goodies including mince pies, truffles, jams, cheese and English Provender's Organic Wild Cranberry Sauce, Hot Horseradish and Ploughman's Plum Chutney.

For a chance to win, simply answer this question:
What fruit is in the ploughman's chutney?

Send your answer on a postcard, along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number, to: English Provender Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is December 24, 2008. No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions, visit www.kentnews.co.uk. For a posted copy, call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature, please write 'no literature' on your entry. For other products from English Provender, as well as great recipe ideas, log on to www.englishprovender.com.



Jailed for 'sickening' child porn pictures

A MAN who had collected thousands of images of children being sexually abused has been jailed for two years.

Llewelyn George Buckland, 35, of Celak Close, Aldington, near Ashford, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

The court was told Buckland had even continued to look at indecent images while he was on bail. Buckland had pleaded guilty on November 17 to making and possessing indecent images of children.

He was caught during a Metropolitan Police investigation into those purchasing child abuse images and his case was passed to Kent Police's public protection unit.

Real abuse

Officers discovered Buckland had more than 9,000 indecent images of children.

Some 53 of them were at 'level 5', which meant they depicted sadism or bestiality.

Det Supt Paul Fotheringham said: "Some of the images were downloaded from a website which he paid to have access to. He had compiled a sickening collection of images of children suffering real abuse."

"We have removed a serious offender from the community and put him before the courts to receive just punishment."

Det Con James Traynor, who was in charge of the investigation, said: "The court was told Buckland continued to view indecent images while on bail and I am pleased this was reflected in his sentencing."

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Pervert is jailed over sex assault

A MAN has been jailed for sexually assaulting a teenage boy and for having indecent photographs of children as young as one year old.



PREDATORY:
Grant Denyer

Grant Denyer, 47, of Pine Tree Avenue, Canterbury, was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court to 25 months behind bars.

He was charged with a sexual assault on a 16-year-old male, and 18 charges relating to the making and possession of indecent pseudo-photographs of children and possession of indecent photographs of children.

Investigating officer PC Dan Devico said: "Denyer preyed on children's vulnerabilities for his own gratification. He used his position to groom the victim and acted in a calculated and predatory way."

"Denyer abused the children's trust in the worst possible way. We hope those who have suffered at his hands have the help and support they deserve."

To speak to an officer regarding this investigation or similar concerns, call Canterbury police station on 01227 762055.

Concert evacuated

TEN members of an audience watching a jive and swing band were taken to hospital after collapsing from suspected carbon monoxide poisoning.

Firefighters and paramedics were called to the King's Hall in London Road, Dover, at 10.30pm last Saturday after reports that guests had collapsed. About 100 people at the Jive Aces concert were evacuated from the hall.

An investigation has been started and a Kent Fire and Rescue service official confirmed carbon monoxide had been detected in the building.



images of Kent

THIS picture of a frosty sycamore pod was taken by Colin Miles of Bapchild, near Sittingbourne, in his garden. If you would like to see your photo printed here, send it to: KOS Media, Images of Kent, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. We cannot return prints, so please do not send negatives. Please note: for reproduction purposes, could all digital images supplied be no less than 300dpi. If you have any technical problems, contact KOS Media on 01303 817000.

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The audience has got me Hooked



Stage and screen actor ALEX GIANNINI took up the challenge of bringing the dastardly Captain Hook to life in Peter Pan at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford. Having faced the audience for the first time last week, he told KOS Media how it feels to be the biggest villain in Kent.

AFTER all the rehearsing, it was fantastic to do the show with an audience at last.

When you get to the dress rehearsal stage and you're getting no reaction because there's nobody there, you really rely on the audience. It's two-way traffic. It was great, like unleashing the dogs of hell.

There was a big boo for Hook when I first

appeared, just this huge noise. It was like a tsunami of young voices, it was great fun.

Hook is a fantastic character to play. You don't even have to be in a good mood to play him. We've already started to buzz off each other as characters, so we'll be doing different things. We won't be making changes, more like developments – finding out what works and what doesn't. There might be something in rehearsals that we're not sure

is funny, but then we find out that it works.

The audience helps us. I'm developing the character of Hook because he's the epitome of evil. He's like a cross between Dick Dastardly, Terry Thomas and Dr Zachary Smith from Lost In Space.

The kids just go crazy when they see him. I've started to play with it and give them an extra growl as I'm going off, to get them going again. I last did panto in 1987 and I'm having such fun – it's a great feeling to be in a pantomime at Christmas. I think I'll do it again, sooner this time. But ask me again in a few weeks, when I've pulled a few muscles and lost my voice.

• Peter Pan runs until Sunday, January 11. To book tickets, call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



CUT ABOVE: Alex as Hook, with Joe Pasquale

Boomtown bucks trend

ASHFORD is bucking the economic trend by pushing ahead with its ambitious plans for more new housing.

That is the claim of Ashford's Future, the organisation overseeing the growth of the town, after planners approved schemes for 1,600 new homes.

Managing director Judith Armitt said the three schemes approved in recent weeks represent two years of new housing supply.

She said: "The downturn in the housing market is unlikely to affect the planned expansion of Ashford in the long term."

"We have a 30-year growth period and there are bound to be fluctuations in the market during this time."

"We remain confident about the future. With high-speed domestic rail services coming, we anticipate an influx of buyers."

Recent planning approvals include:

- Redevelopment of the old railway works in Newtown. Kier Property will develop the site for mixed residential and commercial use.

Nearly 790 houses will be built and a further 140 homes created within listed buildings.

- Construction of 350 houses and flats on former railway works at Hunter Avenue, Willesborough. Developer Fairview Enfield's scheme involves a mix of shared ownership, social rented and private housing.

- Conversion of a 10-storey office block into 224 apartments. The scheme by Dukelease Properties involves converting and extending the town centre office to provide 224 flats and 10,000 sqm of commercial floor space.

The plan also includes constructing two new buildings, providing 110 flats.

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SENSITIVE, shy and caring lady, 20, loves life and sunsets, beaches, country walks, romantic meals, cinema, WLM handsome gent to find love with. Box 446933

SINGLE mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLM an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099 TXT

FUN to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be his soulmate. Box 446494 TXT

SEEKING fun, friendship, maybe more. WLM fun man 25-30, I'm female, 28, brown hair/blue eyes, average build. Box 446622 TXT

HI I'm 27, redhead, 5ft1, blue eyes, intelligent, open-minded, caring, loves going out, music, good meals, seeking friendship and struggles with caring, understanding gent. Box 446786 TXT

SOCIAL, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft6, I've got hazel eyes and dark hair, and enjoy the cinema, make out. WLM sincere, attractive, genuine male. Box 446840 TXT

ASHFORD based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring, and loving man. I have 2 kids, and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 446866 TXT

LOVELY female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, loves life, walks, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 443102 TXT

GOOD looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039 TXT

37YR old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 TXT

38YR old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676 TXT

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LONELY, bored, professional, Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 TXT

SHY female, 40, 5ft8, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 TXT

DIVORCED female, 40, likes fishing, swimming, walking and eating out. WLM young man, for friendship and more. Box 446097 TXT

GENUINE female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 TXT

HAPPY, caring female, homely, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024 TXT

BUBBLY 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, with a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 TXT

ATTRACTIVE woman, 41, 5ft6, blonde hair/blue eyes. I'd like to meet a guy for romance and fun. I enjoy cinema, pubs, meals out. Box 447009 TXT

MEDIUM build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446890 TXT

WLM a nice guy with a similar nature: I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847 TXT

I'M a 42 year old professional lady, long food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and LTR. Seaford. Box 444366 TXT

SINCERE, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5ft8, with short brown hair, brown eyes, friendly male, WLM similar guy. Box 895019 TXT

CHEERFUL, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find a happy again. Box 887347 TXT

HELP me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640 TXT

PETITE, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things. WLM genuine male, to see where life takes us. Box 893562 TXT

GENUINE, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover. Box 435441 TXT

49YR female, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular walking, dining, love and laughter, honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854 TXT

CURVY & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLM similar loving male. Box 443642 TXT

KIND, caring, attractive lady, young 53, 5'7", slim, brown hair/eyes, N/S, GSOH, enjoys walking, reading, travel, socialising; seeking tall, considerate, honest gent for hopeful LTR. Box 446079 TXT

DEAL-BASED lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430394 TXT

BUTT female, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for 'hopeful love'. Box 888162 TXT

BUBBLY female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, prefer non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 TXT

HARD working single mum, young 44yr old, 5ft5, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks. WLM a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751 TXT

HOMELY traditional lady, 44, 5ft8, slim-medium build, non smoker, love life, animals, my dog! walks along the harbour, country pubs, WLM similar gent for romance... Box 446277 TXT

FUN extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends with. Box 442905 TXT

HI I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

BEAUTIFUL black female, 46, WLM a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-50, 5ft10, pref a bit sporty, for a relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 446407 TXT

CARING, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and LTR. Seaford. Box 444366 TXT

SINCERE, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5ft8, with short brown hair, brown eyes, friendly male, WLM similar guy. Box 895019 TXT

CHEERFUL, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find a happy again. Box 887347 TXT

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KIND, caring, attractive lady, young 53, 5'7", slim, brown hair/eyes, N/S, GSOH, enjoys walking, reading, travel, socialising; seeking tall, considerate, honest gent for hopeful LTR. Box 446079 TXT

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLM nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383

GORGEOUS slim attractive, young-looking female, 54, active, wicked SOH, 5ft5, blue eyes, sociable, loves music, dancing, travel, living; seeking warm, sincere man for genuine companionship. Box 446634 TXT

55YR old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft2, I'm divorced with a grown up family. I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out, WLM caring, genuine man. Box 446798 TXT

SUE, 56yr old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, with a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443393 TXT

FLIRTATIOUS, adventurous, energetic lady, mid 50s, 5ft3, likes all dancing, walks, dogs and films, seeks inspiring male for fun evenings, spilling and pampering. Hailsham. Box 884172 TXT

POSITIVE, vivacious female, 59, 5ft4, enjoys art, seaside walks, music, seeks tallish, kind, caring male to grow old with, disgracefully. Box 444943 TXT

DIVORCED lonely female, 61, 5ft6, slim build, looking for similar male with GSOH for chats, dates, friendship and perhaps more. Box 446987 TXT

24YR old male, enjoys sport, socialising and watching films, looking to meet a female to share good times with. Box 443872 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 25, tall and slim, love walking, listening to rock band, attends church, WLM a kind and caring female, age unimportant! to connect with. Box 445593 TXT

HARD-WORKING male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/leaving out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 TXT

GENUINE male, I enjoy football, golf, cosy nights, 1ft6, 5ft1, medium build, short dark hair, glasses, WLM woman, 28-34 with a great personality. Box 884207

SEXY, athletic, red haired man, 32, 5ft10, green eyes, looking for a genuine relationship with a bubbly female who loves fun and knows how to party. Box 884979 TXT

PROFESSIONAL male, 32, 6ft2, medium build, likes golf, football and snooker, WLM a female with a great personality for everlasting happiness. Box 446121

DECENT nice guy, 33, 6ft2, large build, enjoys drinks, films, socialising, looking for a female 35-45, looks unimportant/personality essential. Hastings. Box 446166

FUN-LOVING honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446200 TXT

FUN-LOVING male, 33, 6ft, blue eyes/fair hair, stocky-muscular build, seeks similar slender female to enjoy life with. Maidstone. Box 194378 TXT

INDEPENDENT dad, 35, 6ft, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, great SOH, likes nights in/out, pubbing, etc. seeking female who's honest. Box 446966

FAST-THINKING 36yr old male looking to meet a female for friendship and romance, hopefully a LTR. Likes the normal things in life, many interests. Box 446899 TXT

ITALIAN origin male, 36, tall, dark hair and eyes, loves good fun, very handsome, seeks bubbly, outgoing lady to take out and spoil. Box 446589 TXT

SINCERE down-to-earth male, 36, 5ft11, dark blonde, blue eyes, clean, passionate, seeking genuine black female with great personality, lots of fun, good conversation, country pubs, friendship, maybe more. Box 447034 TXT

LEE, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, with a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720 TXT

MAIDSTONE male, 35, dark blond hair, dark eyes, nice looking, have a little girl, own business, varied interests, looking for a lady, under 40. Box 429375 TXT

SEPARATED male, 37, 6ft, slim, good looks, N/S, gosh, kind, caring, sensual, likes keeping fit, movies, nights in/out; seeks caring, slim, active female for LTR. Box 445729 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING male, 38, 5ft9, dark hair, blue eyes, good-looking, no ties, a carpenter, likes the outdoors, seeks lady to sail on and live with. Box 444937 TXT

DOWN-TO-EARTH, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 TXT

ENERGETIC, intelligent, independent lorry driver, 38, enjoys sports, games and romantic times. Looking for someone similar. Box 884500 TXT

SLIM build, 38yr old male, 5ft11, green eyes, single dad with 3 kids, enjoys theatre, dining out, walks and life, with special lady for possible LTR. Box 886602 TXT

BLOND 39yr old, tall, blue eyes, educated, attractive, solvent (just!), genuine, loyal, adventurous and definitely different. Seeks beautiful woman with someone like you. Box 885814 TXT

HI I'm Shawn, 39, likes most things in life, for an outgoing girl to take out and get to know. Box 446085 TXT

MALE, 39, 5ft7, slim, brown hair/brown eyes, really looking for that special lady to make me happy in life, dine with, drink with and more. Box 446803 TXT

VIRGO male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches, WLM like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446211 TXT

OUTGOING young-minded male, 47, a smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, PFI, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750 TXT

ANDY single male, 40yrs old, tall, short brown hair, blue eyes, 6ft, looking to meet female, 30-45 yrs old, for fun times, maybe more. Box 887086 TXT

CHRIS, 39, 5ft7, stocky, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, day out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 440167 TXT

HI, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laughs, days out and much more. Box 436969 TXT

42YR old guy, new in town, 5ft8, muscular build, been hurt in past, looking for someone similar to move on in life with. Hastings. Box 446668 TXT

DEVOTED dad, 43, blond hair, blue eyes, 6ft1, likes travelling, spiritualism, meals in/out, seeking female with GSOH for fun times and hopefully much more. Box 446477

REGULAR guy, mid 50s, 5ft10, brown hair/blue eyes, I'm easygoing and enjoy antique fairs, meals in/out, music, etc. Box 446995 TXT

TALL, dark, divorced male, 59, likes most music, dining out, cinema, seeking female to share my fiasco trolley for friendship and hopefully more. Box 444251 TXT

SELF-EMPLOYED plasterer, 59, 5ft10, blue eyes, medium build, likes walking, WLM a nice woman, 45-60, to share life with. Box 446866 TXT

HEARTBROKEN and lonely, gentle, semi-quiet widower, 60, has lots of TLC and cuddles to give to a lady who likes reading, walks and more. Box 446206 TXT

60YRS young, handsome male, 6ft1, athletic, own house/car, loves keep fit, cricket, music, classical/blues, cooking; seeking lady to see what happens. Box 438361 TXT

SLIM male, 6ft1, 49yrs old, blond with a bit of grey! I'm divorced, and ready to start anew, WLM genuine woman, who enjoys cosy times. Box 446936 TXT

HELLO, I'm Graham, 6ft2, work as a carpenter, adores rugby, hates football! WLM a slim, tactile and intelligent female for a relationship. Box 445689 TXT

FUN-LOVING and laid-back male, 50, 6ft4, slim-medium build, smoker, enjoys cinema, music, travel and country pubs, seeking a female 40-46 for fun, romance & LTR. Box 443689 TXT

50YR old gentle chap, likes eating in/out, cinema, walks and music, seeking cuddly, nice, mature buxom female for friendship. Box 446721 TXT

ROMANTIC, strong male, 50, non-smoking, I love travel, the coast cinema/theatre, restaurant. Looking for love and laughter with lovely lady. Box 445354 TXT

HI, I'm 50 with two grown up kids, love country pubs, walks, life, GSOH, WLM a nice lady to get to know of any age. Box 439922 TXT

HI I'm John, 51, like animals, cinema, clubbing, furniture restoration, 5ft5, looking for a friend and soul mate. Box 445248 TXT

REGULAR guy, mid 50s, 5ft10, brown hair/blue eyes, I'm easygoing and enjoy antique fairs, meals in/out, music, etc. Box 446995 TXT

TALL, dark, divorced male, 59, likes most music, dining out, cinema, seeking female to share my fiasco trolley for friendship and hopefully more. Box 444251 TXT

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TALL, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, wlm a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 TXT

EASYGOING female, 32, enjoys shopping, looking, eating out, cosy nights in, WLM loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214 TXT

PRETTY black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778 TXT

31YR old bubbly, fun-loving female, like reading, cinema, looking for tall, dark and handsome male, GSOH, for happy times. Brighton. Box 438057 TXT

32, 5ft9, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLM nice, kind gent. Box 439402 TXT

SINGLE Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5ft8, dark brown hair, seeking someone to have fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 438941 TXT

PRETTY black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and hiking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 TXT

CUTE, single mum of a 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 TXT

TALL leggy brunette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoy meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887490 TXT

ATTRACTIVE 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun, male, for friendship/relationship. Box 301983 TXT

BUBBLY, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 TXT

NURSE, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male. Box 435157 TXT

LOVELY pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship. Box 446724 TXT

SEPARATED brilliant brunette, 39, single mum, 5ft7, likes swimming and house music, WLM a kind and considerate tall white male with dark shoulder length hair. Box 445684 TXT

TUNBRIDGE Wells lady, brown hair/eyes, 38, I'm a teacher and love theatre, reading, cinema, swimming, travel. Looking for like minded chap for happy times. Box 444923 TXT

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Women for women

CURVY bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142 TXT

EASYGOING female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wine, dining, socialising, holidays, walks, cinema; seeking like-wise female for companionship and more. Box 446953 TXT

52YRS, 5ft6, blonde, size 12, enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 TXT

SLIM build, 38yr old male, 5ft11, green eyes, single dad with 3 kids, enjoys theatre, dining out, walks and life, with special lady for possible LTR. Box 886602 TXT

BLOND 39yr old, tall, blue eyes, educated, attractive, solvent (just!), genuine, loyal, adventurous and definitely different. Seeks beautiful woman with someone like you. Box 885814 TXT

HI I'm Shawn, 39, likes most things in life, for an outgoing girl to take out and get to know. Box 446085 TXT

MEN FOR WOMEN

TALL slim guy, 6ft, 19, hobbies include acting and playing football, looking for an outgoing girl to take out and get to know. Box 446944

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Partygoers warned

WEEKEND partygoers are being warned after a series of arrests in Kent Police's Christmas drink-driving crackdown.

Within a one-week period, 11 out of 13 arrests for drink-driving in Maidstone and Swale were at the weekend.

PC Warren Jarvis said: "More drink-drivers are being picked up at weekends, even though officers have been at hotspots throughout the week. This can be explained by people enjoying a festive drink – but even the odd pint could affect your ability to drive safely."

"Is that drink at a Christmas party really worth it? A drink-drive conviction could cost you your licence, your job and your freedom."

Sleazy duo sought

A LORRY driver and a passenger who tried to get a schoolgirl into their cab are being sought by police.

The 14-year-old was in Willington Street, Maidstone, when a lorry pulled up and the passenger leaned out and spoke to her. The girl was then followed until she went inside a building. The incident happened just before 4pm on Saturday, December 6.

The passenger is white, in his late 20s, of slight build, 5ft 10ins, with short brown hair. He wore a red-and-white jumper and jeans.

The driver is white, in his 40s and wore glasses. He was driving a white, flatbed lorry. Call Maidstone police on 01622 690055 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Snatched pills alert

SLEEPING tablets and antidepressants in a stolen handbag could be dangerous if swallowed, police have warned.

The handbag, taken from a car in Eastern Avenue, Queenborough, contained pills and cash. It was snatched from a Nissan Micra on Sunday, December 7 or Monday, December 8.

The tablets are codeine phosphate painkillers, sleeping pill Zopiclone, and antidepressant Trazodone. Contact Kent Police on 01795 419182.

Japanese court in partial reversal after murder acquittal

Serial rapist guilty of dumping Lucie's body

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A JAPANESE serial rapist has been convicted of kidnapping, mutilating and dumping the body of Kent woman Lucie Blackman.

The ruling is a partial reversal of an earlier decision by the high court in Tokyo.

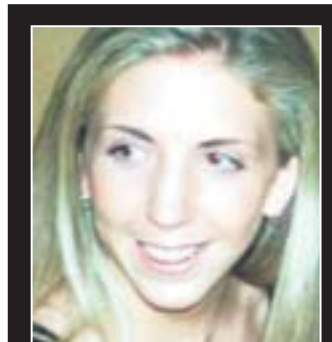
Last year, Joji Obara, a wealthy property developer, was cleared of killing the 21-year-old from Sevenoaks, who had been working as a bar hostess at the Casablanca nightclub in the Japanese capital's Roppongi district before she disappeared in 2000.

The 56-year-old is already serving a life sentence, which will remain unchanged, for raping nine other women, including one who died.

Ms Blackman's dismembered body was found hidden in a beachside cave in 2001, close to Obara's apartment in Miura.

Judge Hiroshi Kadono ruled on Tuesday that while there was not enough evidence to convict Obara of murder, he was found guilty of "damaging and abandoning" her body.

Obara was sent to prison in 2007 after he was found guilty of raping nine women,



VICTIM: Lucie Blackman, 21, was kidnapped, mutilated and dumped

including Australian Carita Ridgway, who was in Tokyo, like Ms Blackman, working as a bar hostess.

He had drugged Ms Ridgway with chloroform before raping her and the 21-year-old later died from liver failure. Obara filmed himself during the attacks.

Obara was acquitted of murder last year and Ms Blackman's parents were both shocked by the decision. Her mother, Jane Steare, from Sevenoaks, said she was

"absolutely devastated" and believed Obara should have been found guilty.

She has also criticised her estranged husband, Tim Blackman, since he accepted a 'condolence payment' of £453,000 in 2006 from a friend of the wealthy rapist, which she described as "blood money".

Condolence money is recognised under Japanese law and Mr Blackman said the payment would go to a trust set up in his daughter's name, which campaigns to keep travellers safe while abroad.

His ex-wife said at the time: "I just couldn't understand morally how a father could take money before the end of the trial from somebody like Joji Obara."

"The implications of it... I was always told by the prosecutor that taking any money from Obara or anyone connected with him could affect the outcome. I turned down the same money because I thought it was morally not right."

Obara's acquittal of Ms Blackman's killing came despite a large amount of circumstantial evidence. Her body was found cut into eight pieces, and in the days after her disappearance Obara had bought a chainsaw and cement, which he is suspected of using to encase her head.

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Greatest gift of all – the future

EVERYONE at Kent on Sunday would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas.

The festive period is a special time of gift-giving, lights, decorations, mistletoe and spending time with loved ones.

It is especially magical for children, so this is a good time to think about the future and the impact we are having on our environment.

Reducing waste is crucial because we are consuming resources at an unsustainable rate and contributing to climate change. Over Christmas last year, Kent households sent 17,000 tonnes of rubbish to landfill, where biodegradable waste generates methane – a greenhouse gas.

Christmas has become more about consumption – presents, parties and food – than the birth of Jesus, which is fine and fun, but it has a huge impact on the environment, with Kent alone producing four per cent more waste over the festive period.

Having a green and happy Christmas does not have to be a hassle and could save money, too. Kent recycled just 23 per cent of its waste last Christmas which is, frankly, rubbish when 80 per cent of household waste is recyclable.

So, think about how much food is being bought and what can be reused before chucking it away. Recycle as many bottles and cans and as much paper and plastic as possible. And take unwanted presents to charity shops.

With a bit of extra thought and goodwill, let's have a happy Christmas and challenge the county to beat last year's recycling figure.

OPINION:

Get up and running

Tim Garbutt says Kent should go into tourism overdrive in preparation for the 2012 Olympics



EASE off the Christmas pudding and sherry. Put down the TV remote control. Christmas is here and that means one thing.

Going away on holiday? About 2pm on Christmas Day the adverts for holiday breaks begin. The Norfolk Broads usually feature heavily for some reason.

Here's a couple of different ideas though.

We've been asked to consider various tourism and marketing ideas for Romania. Now it's in the EU, so no problems with travel. Good skiing in winter and terrific beaches in the summer.

And over seven per cent of the land is preserved in a series of national parks, biosphere reserves and the stunning Danube Delta territory. There are also about 800 scientific reserves, natural monuments and natural reserves.

Not forgetting the seven superb Unesco-protected Painted Monasteries of Bucovina with their painted frescoes and wooden bells.

The Danube Delta even has a triple international status: biosphere reserve, Ramsar site (wetland of international importance), and a Cultural and Natural World Heritage site; and was awarded the Year 2000 European Prize by the European Council.

Over the other side of the world there's Taiwan. Sitting off the coast of China are a mix of city and rural attractions from the Lantern Festivals and hot springs of Wushan or the Hualien Ocean theme park – all awaiting a little

Chinese Glasnost and China's tourist business.

Check out the Khaosung Cargo Box Festival – the best "arts in a cargo box" festival anywhere ever. There's not many. Come on Dover!

But hang on – why go to all that bother?

Shouldn't we be emphasising our domestic tourism here in Kent?

Yes, Taiwan and Romania have their attractions. Possibly the Norfolk Broads too.

Deadline

But holidays to such far-flung destinations will always be a relative luxury. And they are facing an increasing cost of travel as the new EU carbon permits swing into action to restrict carbon emissions.

The recent UN conference in Poland set the deadline for next year's Copenhagen Conferences to ratchet down on carbon.

With a crunched exchange rate for foreign travel surely the opportunity is in 'slow travel'.

The benefit of Brand Kent is in a slower and greener tour off the beaten track.

Kent? Dickens related his love of cherries, orchards and wenches. Isn't this Garden of England able to create a series of fresh day and week-long tours and trips to expand our holiday offering?

The longest coastline in the UK, and Unesco sites such as Canterbury Cathedral, Pegwell Bay and Dover's White Cliffs – all ready for when the Olympic torch comes home. Surely time for tourism overdrive.

Kent's tourist information centres are packed with pamphlets advertising reams of exhibitions, and events for all sensibilities.

For history enthusiasts Kent offers the chance to explore medieval castles or discover the spot Sir Thomas Beckett was killed. For nature lovers there's Groombridge gardens and its enchanted forest.

Yet all these wonders may remain a mystery if you do not know the hidden depths of the tourist office or the county itself. Shouldn't we have a little more pride in Kent's tourism centre professionals?

Good train links across the Weald and around the coast allow new parts of Kent to open up like never before.

And with good onward train travel to the Continent cross-Europe travel is now viable. Rail-bike tours are springing up like spring daffodils.

Cluster

Aren't we reaching the point now in terms of Brand Kent where the value of our natural environment is far more than – short and long term – a cluster of houses, strips of motorway and so on?

Kent faces a tourism opportunity like never before in need of a Renaissance whether it's greater marketing or sportier holidays linked to the walking and cycle trails in readiness for the 2012 Games.

You could call it a vision of an eco-county for Kent. Happy 2009.

• **Tim Garbutt is the managing director of Sincerity Agency the green and ethical advertising agency in Canterbury: www.sincerityagency.com.**



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Beauty before blades

Having recently completed a 1,800km bus journey from Dover to Oslo via Brussels and back, I observed many turbines placed close to the motorways of the countries through which I passed; namely, France Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

These giant triplebladed windmills were situated mostly at the summits of hills, where there is most likely to be wind and also in a location where no-one in their right mind would wish to live; that is, near a motorway.

In the United Kingdom, more use might be made of this strategy.

If these turbines must be placed on land, it should never be in areas of outstanding natural beauty such as Romney Marsh or Langdon.

George Nicholas Harby
Dover

Barking up wrong tower

When I was a small boy in Bolton I had a tendency to believe I was right and everyone else was wrong.

One day, my sensible, kind northern granny told me a story about a soldier who was marching out of step. This soldier, when reprimanded by the sergeant major, insisted that it was everyone else who was out of step – not him.

I was reminded of this cautionary tale when reading the extraordinary saga of Gravesend council's blinkered determination to march on regardless with their insensitive and inappropriate, finance-motivated Tower folly.

Surely they have had more than ample evidence that the overwhelming majority of normal Gravesend residents consider this project to be entirely ghastly and wrong?

Thousands of people have signed petitions. Hundreds have demonstrated. Hundreds have written in protest.

Still our elected representatives march on – spending money on a four-page colour spread 'selling' the Tower and finding local estate agents to say how wonderful it will be.

They have wheeled out councillors to claim

Services value your support

A seasonal message to all KOS Media readers from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett CMG, The Queen's representative in the county

THROUGHOUT the year there has been a magnificent response to the Lieutenant's call for the people of Kent to demonstrate greater support for our Armed Forces and their families.

All Kent's local authorities enthusiastically passed unanimous motions of support, translated into action, such as the granting of honorary freedoms and welcome home parades.

We also focused on the centenary of the Territorial Army and celebrated the service of all past and present Volunteer Reservists.

And it was heart-warming to see the public turning out in such force for parades in Maidstone, Medway, Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury and Sandgate to show they care.

Over the festive season servicemen and women from Kent will still be serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Our prayers are with them – and especially with their families left behind in our care.

Our thoughts, too, are with the emer-

gency services, those caring for others, and those who are ill or alone.

The global economic situation affects everyone and it is understandable that people feel insecure.

But our frontline county has weathered many a storm in the past and at times of crisis it has been the strength of our communities that has always pulled us through.

That is why the Lieutenant will be concentrating on celebrating Kent's mosaic of communities in the coming year.

We will be pursuing our aim to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements, success and excellence, and promote service to others.

My wife Anne and I wish all KOS Media readers a happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year.

Lord Lieutenant of Kent
Allan Willett CMG



it will cost us millions not to go ahead with this project (if so, what a foolish thing to embark upon).

Yet this is a deliberate deception, failing to

mention that there will be no cost if planning is not granted. What hope of true representation when our councillors are prepared to try and pull the wool over our eyes.

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

The council has agreed to have 'further public consultation' (hoping to get a different answer, I suppose) – while in the same breath our great leader says he will not be influenced by the exercise in any way.

So why spend the money?

Now we have a nine-page, damning verdict on the Tower project from English Heritage: "Not development plan led, is not an exceptional design and is wholly out of context with the prevailing character of Gravesend's heritage quarter."

Can the councillors and their great leader really carry on marching forward with their folly, blind and deaf to all opinion after this? Prepare to be amazed and saddened.

Peers Carter
Gravesend

Force us to believe

Tasers and the use of as so contested in KoS (December 14) shows just how much knowledge the police and Kent Police Authority have regarding such.

I can understand Chief Constable Mike Fuller's position with ease because he's had enough trouble getting funds this last year. But what appals is the lack of common sense in our UK forces. If they just had the guts to spill truth the public would have little to worry about and may well back them finally.

The Home Secretary again spins twisted stats on Tasers, but also knives, as anyone can check. Facts that prove the Taser kills.

It's no good saying such low numbers, the fact is anyone with a slight medical condition could be killed. Then we'll have the same spin as shown with firearms.

Facts show a 'shoot to kill' policy remains all the more proven by the De Menezes killing.

If our police where so highly trained they could with ease use a 'shoot to wound' strategy in 99 per cent of cases, their own stats prove this.

The more the police have called on arms the more they have gained status for the criminal. So much today that the law-abiding

Letters continue on p28

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BIRTHS

BEER

Emily May born on 9th December 2008, weighing 8lbs 4oz. Daughter to Sarah and Wayne in Deal

CHESTER

The Chester family celebrate the birth of Amelia Dorothy Anne born on the 2nd December 2008.

EVANS

Sherril King and Luke Evans celebrate the birth of their daughter Isla Kadee Evans on 7th December 2008.

HOLMES

Kieran born 10th December 2008, weighing 8lbs 15oz. Son to Robert and Lucy and brother Jessica.

HOULGRAVES

Mark and Gabriela of Sittingbourne celebrate the birth of their beautiful son Sebastian David on 24th November 2008.

JACKSON

Claire and Leigh Jackson celebrate the birth of their son Hayden John Jackson on 11th November 2008. A brother for Justin.

KELLY

Harry born on 5th December 2008, weighing 6lb 7oz. Son to Amanda and Andrew of East Malling.

MANAHAN

Chris and Clare are pleased to announce the birth of their son Harrison George Manahan, born on 8th December 2008, weighing 8lbs 6oz. A brother for Oliver.

MILLIGAN

Alison and Gavin of Gravesend are proud to announce the birth of their son

Callum George Stuart Milligan born on 4th December 2008 weighing 7lb 12oz at Darent Valley Hospital.

MUIR

Hamish Andrew Muir born on 8th December 2008 weighing 7lbs 12oz. Son to Andrea and Andrew and sister to Amelie Grace.

POLLARD

Briony and Robert celebrate the birth of their son Toby Wilf Pollard on 2nd December 2008

SAVAGE

Tegan Alyssa Savage born on 25th November 2008, weighing 5lb 15oz. Daughter to Rod and Tracy of Downswood.

SHILLABEER

Tabatha and Marc of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Ella Louise, born on 7th December 2008 at QEOM Hospital. Our most beautiful and precious daughter.

SMITH

Lilly-May born on 9th December 2008, weighing 7lbs 9oz. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

SWAFFER

Matt and Sarah are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Darcy Victoria Swaffer, born on 2nd December 2008, weighing 7lbs 13oz. Thank you to everyone for their well wishes and generous gifts.

TUSON

William Joseph born to proud parents Adam and Ali of Horsmonden on 11th December 2008 at Pembury Hospital

WAKEFIELD

Lissa and Andy Wakefield of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Thomas Jefferson Wakefield on 3rd December 2008.

WATSON

Lee and Michelle are delighted to announce the arrival of their little bundle of Joy Aimee Dorothy Leigh, on 30th November 2008 weighing 5lb 10oz

WHITMORE

Ashton Jay born on 4th November 2008, weighing 8lb 7oz. Son to Tracy and Jason Whitmore and brother to Callum, Taylor, Connor and Freya from Ashford.

POWELL

Jeannie passed away peacefully on 14th December 2008 in the Pilgrims Hospice, Margate. Enquiries to Nobles Funeral Directors, St Peters 01843 862503.

TREMAIN

Esme Joan of Sandgate died 8th December 2008 at William Harvey Hospital, aged 84. At peace after much suffering. Funeral to be held at Barham Crematorium on Monday 22nd December at 4pm. All friends more than welcome at Barham and afterwards at the Black Horse in Densole.

MCLEWIN

Charlotte Annie McLevin of Herne Bay where she ran the save The Children Fund shop, passed away peacefully after a short illness on 9th December 2008 aged 93 years. Much loved mother of Angus and her late daughter Jane. Beloved gran of Jo, Dan and Shaun. Mother in Law of

Ali and great grandmother to Baxter. The funeral took place on Friday 19th December at Barham. Donations and enquiries to C.W. Lyons of Canterbury 01227 463508.

MULFORD

Ronald Charles passed away peacefully on 8th December 2008. Enquiries to Co-Operative Funeral Services, Station Road, Birchington. Never to be forgotten and back where he belongs: at peace alongside Mum.

POWELL

Jeannie passed away peacefully on 14th December 2008 in the Pilgrims Hospice, Margate. Enquiries to Nobles Funeral Directors, St Peters 01843 862503.

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All democratic systems work through political groupings and they are the drivers of change and development as history records.

Is he proposing to ban political parties? What was that about returning to democracy? I must also point out that although there were demonstrations against the Iraq war, the same government was returned at the following election.

And by the way – just another wild statement – criminals are not usually set free. MPs are accountable to us at the end of each Parliament and are subject to the law like everyone else.

What independent body does he wish to place over our elected representatives? Who would appoint it and how would its independence be measured? What purpose would be served by electing the House of Lords? Who would decide what constitutes a major issue requiring a referendum?

I could go on, but will finish by posing the question that always arises when that hoary old cliché 'our once great country' is bandied about, but which seldom gets an answer. When precisely was the 'once great' era to which he refers?

E Egan
Harrietsham

Pass on the reduction

It seems that Medway council is not going to pass on the 2.5 per cent reduction on VAT on parking charges, etc.

I know the reduction can be classed as a gimmick, but it is a reduction that must be passed on. If they don't pass it on then it means the parking charges have now gone up and the council cannot increase parking charges without notifying the public in advance.

If it was a Conservative government that had reduced the VAT would this council then pass it on? If Medway council had any sense it would scrap the parking charges for shoppers during December and get people to come to Medway and help to boost the trade for the local shops.

No wonder shops like Woolworths are shutting down if our councils keep people from shopping in our towns.

Medway council doesn't seem to realise that there are quite a lot of out-of-town shopping centres with free parking where people can browse around and shop at their leisure. Perhaps they will realise when the last shop left in Medway shuts.

Is there going to be a reduction on the Dartford tunnel toll or are they going to be exempt? If the councils are not going to pass on the reductions why should the shops and other services?

Peter Nassan
Chatham

Savers carry the can

I sympathise with your article on the front page of KoS headed, 'Savers to feel the pinch of rate cut'.

Isn't there a danger that with inflation running at 4.1 per cent and interest rates falling, savers will finish up getting less interest than the rate of inflation and therefore be losing money on their savings in real terms?

So savers will not just lose income on their savings as you point out, but the real value of their savings will diminish until inflation falls.

Why should foolish borrowers be subsidised by prudent savers?

It was greedy bankers and foolish borrowers who got the country and the planet into its current mess, not savers.

So why should savers carry the can?

There was a young fellow named Brett Who was said to be deeply in debt Though he often moans About his unmet loans It was through his own choice you can bet

Marc Hurstfield
Northfleet

It's all a matter of taste

I must begin my reply to JH Clark's letter, 'Slaughterhouse Clive' (KOS December 7) by saying I respect his honesty in admitting that he worked as a slaughter man for a quarter of a century.

I doubt many involved in such a visceral and distasteful trade would wish for it to be made public knowledge.

Mr Clark considers my description of cattle and sheep shot in the head being tantamount to execution as unworthy of his response. What other word could possibly be used more aptly to describe the cold-blooded killing of sensitive, intelligent mammals?

Mr Clark misunderstood what I meant when I wrote that meat undergoes a disguise in the factory. I was referring to burgers and sliced, processed meat, which it is easy to forget was once part of an animal or bird's body.

Furthermore, when I spoke of sentient creatures being incarcerated I was thinking more of battery hens rather than gambling calves and lambs.

I am sure that even a hardened animal-slaughterer like Mr Clark would concede that these birds suffer in the most appallingly inhumane conditions.

Mr Clark mentioned that many of the people who worked alongside him in the meat trade "were even regular church-goers".

Anybody can attend church, Mr Clark. I believe that Tony Blair and George Bush consider themselves to be devout Christians. If an omnipotent creator exists then only He/She can truly know if they are pure of heart.

Just because the meat trade is perfectly lawful in the UK does not mean that its legality is based on well-reasoned legislation. Laws can be wrong.

Finally, I would like to finish this letter by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and hopefully a vegetarian one at that.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler
Canterbury

Sing for your salvation

Thank Heaven these so-called 'talent' shows are now nearing an end for 2008.

The behaviour of the finalists in the X Factor last weekend really describes just how insecure so many of the competitors are.

Good luck to anyone who can compete with others and run out winners at the end of the series.

But do we really want to see so many tears, hyper-ventilating and other unacceptable symptoms?

What would make these series so much more interesting is if the runners-up were posted out to the Middle East, say for six months, to carry out admin duties on the frontline.

Wouldn't that just sort out the men from the boys?

Colin Davis
Woodchurch

If truth could be told

It's not difficult on this occasion to concur with Phil Granger's observations on the state of this nation and its government.

But can I go a stage further, having been present at numerous, so-called consultations held at government departments, at which I and the Alliance I represent, were then suddenly barred without notice or confirmed reason.

Shades here of the manner in which Damian Green has been treated, as our only 'crime' we suspect, was 'telling it like it is'.

Indeed, having taken advantage of the then newly introduced Freedom of Information Act, it became apparent that what was being hatched amounted to a restrictive practice primarily to diminish the value and formation of residents' associations, affecting some 200,000 people across the UK, whose own 'park homes' are stationed upon someone else's land.

What therefore became law in 2006, brought about by the widespread desire of landowners, as evidenced through the FoI Act was the almost apartheid nature of new legislation to diminish homeowners' ability to vote.

Despite the legal fact that each occupant of the home had to fully abide by their agreement under the Mobile Homes Act, this same act then effectively contradicted itself by limiting voting rights to only one per home.

In practice, therefore, it means that women in a relationship are denied a vote, as would be one party from a mixed-race relationship.

But no surprises that neither the Minister for Women nor the Equality and Human Rights Commission have lifted a finger to

Letters continued from p27

are under constant threat through lack of protection. As for giving any KPA member a rise, basically amounting to a salary-based hike, they should all be asked as it's supposedly a voluntary post on expenses only.

Mark Reckless was right to disagree. But then we have a KPA that is limited, to no real experience of terrorism, security and for that matter futuristic police work.

Just think back to the Downing Street mortar attacks, which could never happen?

Wake up KPA, you work for the people not yourselves. Mumbai could happen anywhere in the UK.

Derek Packham
Deal

Addicks paying the price

In reply to Rick Everett of Charlton FC development. He mentioned about support throughout Kent for Charlton – are these people he buses in true fans?

And has he ruined other Kent clubs – not Gillingham as they have a fan base of around 5,000 people who turn up week in, week out – but Folkestone, Margate and other small clubs vital to their local communities taking away

support when they really need it.

Also, is he bussing in as many now they are not in the Premiership?

Get real Mr Everett, don't come into Kent for your support. I know your club are losing millions and it will increase now you will no longer get your parachute payments.

You used to be a real family club, but like all your fellow Premiership lot you got greedy.

As for the Gills, we are looking forward to meeting you once again in the league next year.

Anthony Ellingham
Chatham

Doubt it will work, Phil

I find Phil Granger's comments about being phoned or accosted in the street by people wishing to congratulate him rather odd and also cannot make out what it is I am supposed to be pretending is not happening, but no matter.

I am at least grateful he has submitted his suggestions for improving our collective lot, even though they appear to be of doubtful utility.

Talk of an 'elected dictatorship' is utter nonsense. Dictators do not hold free elections and I do not believe that even Mr Grainger, in his blackest moments of pessimism, would claim that he cannot support any candidate of his choosing at elections or that his votes are not confidential.



KENT ON SUNDAY

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Review 21.12.08

No ordinary Joe

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KENT ON SUNDAY

It all points to a busy Christmas for jungle Joe

I'm A Celebrity winner says his feet have not touched the ground since his victory

KENT ON SUNDAY

• REVIEW •

BY JANE CONNOLLY

EVER since he swung into action in ITV's jungle, actor Joe Swash was a favourite to win I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here.

After winning over millions of the reality show's viewers, the King of the Jungle is now back in England and impressing Chatham audiences with his portrayal of Buttons in Cinderella at the Central Theatre. While struggling to put on his costume, Swash, 26, spoke to Review about what life has been like since his coronation.

"It's been non-stop, I've not had a chance to think about it," he said. "Being in the panto was probably the best thing I could do to keep my mind off things."

Reception

After spending three weeks having adventures in the Australian jungle, coming back to England to take on a more conventional job like pantomime could seem pretty tame in comparison. But the pace has barely relented for the former Eastenders star.

"I was alright coming back. I was looking forward to it, it's just that I haven't had the chance to catch up with anyone," he said. "But it's been brilliant. I've had a really nice reception from everyone in Medway. They've been very welcoming and I've had really good audiences, which makes it a lot nicer."

With his winning smile, friendly manner and down-to-earth approach, Swash saw off competition from better-known celebrities

such as Esther Rantzen, Timmy Mallett and Robert Kilroy-Silk to take the title. But his victory was not easily won. Swash endured several of the programme's infamous Bush Tucker Trials, such as the Trauma Tank, the Chambers of Horror and the I Scream Van.

The latter saw Swash and glamour model Nicola McLean forced to eat a variety of revolting dishes, including crocodile eyes and scorpions. But for Swash, the biggest challenge was the boredom.

"It was more the waiting around (that was tough)," he said. "Sometimes you would have nothing to do all day long. But apart from that, it was a great experience."

Swash grew up in Islington, London, and attended the famous Anna Scher Theatre School alongside other future Eastenders stars Natalie Cassidy, James Alexandrou and Brooke Kinsella. He made a number of appearances in adverts, television shows and films before landing the part of Mickey Miller in the soap in 2003. It happened in the nick of time, as Swash had been about to give up acting in favour of learning a trade.

He played the cheeky Cockney for nearly five years, alongside an on-screen family that included his real-life sister Shana. But after suffering a long illness in 2005, Swash felt that his character had been sidelined and it was agreed that Mickey should be written out of the show.

Speaking at the launch of Cinderella this summer, Swash revealed that he would consider appearing on a reality TV show.

"I don't know, it's a possibility," he said. "I'll have to wait and see. I couldn't do Dancing on Ice, I'd have to pass that one up for people's safety."

It turns out that he had already had his eye on I'm A Celebrity... as he revealed this week.

"I'd had a few people wanting to speak to me, but I had my mind made up because I had always liked that one," he said. "It was



brilliant, so exciting. I did stuff that I would never have done in real life."

But while reality shows can present celebrities with extraordinary opportunities, in both a personal and professional sense, they can also backfire spectacularly. Swash admitted that despite his enthusiasm for the challenge, he still had to give it careful consideration.

"It was quite a scary decision because I'm an actor and if people don't like the character, you can say 'it's just the character,'" he said. "But if people don't like you, it's quite a vulnerable position to be in. It's like letting your guard down. But it was a once in a lifetime experience and I would get to do things I would never otherwise do, so I thought 'just go for it.'"

It can become evident that some participants on reality TV are deliberately manipulating situations, constantly aware of the cameras and trying to engineer a certain response from viewers. On this series of I'm A Celebrity... the villain was former Dollar singer David Van Day, who provoked arguments almost from the moment he arrived on the fifth day. McLean claimed that Van Day had admitted off-camera to having a



BACK TO WORK: After his success in the jungle (left), Joe Swash is treading the boards in Cinderella at the Central Theatre in Chatham over the festive period

game plan, asking her to switch from bickering to flirting in an attempt to win votes. "After about three days, I forgot the cameras were there," Swash said. "If you concentrate on them too much you go crazy, so I just had to get on with it as I would in real life. People went in there with different agendas, but at the end of the day it was just a game show. I don't think people took it too seriously."

Swash did appear to be genuinely upset when Van Day's alleged deception was exposed. He had intervened in arguments when he felt the singer was being picked on by the rest of the group, something which could have made him unpopular with his campmates and viewers. But Swash claimed that he did not need to think about how his actions would be perceived.

"I wanted to go in there and be myself," he said. "If I hadn't (stepped in), I would not have been myself so it was an easy decision to make. I don't like to see things going on and not step in."

One of the most touching aspects of the series was Swash's unexpected close friendship with the much older Star Trek actor George Takei, whom Swash dubbed 'Gorgeous George'.

"He's coming down in January and later in the year I'm going to his house in America," Swash said. "I've made a life-long friend. People like George and Esther Rantzen – without this show, our paths would never have crossed."

• **Cinderella runs at the Central Theatre, Chatham, until Sunday, January 4. To book tickets call 01634 338338 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.**



INSIDE 21.12.08



V ATTRACTIONS

Walk off Christmas dinner with a tour around Port Lympne Wild Animal Park on Boxing Day.



VI LISTINGS

Former EastEnders Emma Barton stars as Snow White in the Marlowe pantomime in Canterbury.



VII-XII KENTISH CHRISTMAS

Celebrity chef Antony Worrall Thompson's top tips will help relieve the stress of cooking this Christmas.



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Critical Review

IN MY VIEW



By Chris Britcher

Monkey still magic

MONKEY: JOURNEY TO THE WEST
02, LONDON

FOR those of a certain age, the word Monkey brings with it connotations far and above those of peanut-munching furry creatures swinging from trees in a zoo.

Oh no. For those in their mid-to-late 30s, Monkey will forever prompt memories of one of the more bizarre TV experiences.

Shipped in from Japan, Monkey was a poorly-dubbed triumph. Retelling one of China's most ancient and beloved texts – the 16th century Journey to the West by Wu Cheng'en – it followed the remarkable story of a monkey born of a mountain top, expelled from heaven and sent on a road trip with the priest Tripitaka in a quest to find Holy Scriptures in India (the west) and return them to the Buddha in exchange for fabulous rewards.

Not, if we're being honest, the most obvious TV adaptation. But by God, it was good. The humour, the fights, the costumes, the locations, the inability of any of the dubbing to coincide with the movements of the mouth; it all worked, somehow.

It is a tribute to the effect it had that now, the generation raised on the series, has revived it again. This time as an all-singing, all-dancing stage production. And, what's more, it delivers a perfect taste of Chinese folklore right on our doorstep, courtesy of its extended run in the grounds of Greenwich's glorious O2.

Blur frontman Damon Albarn and artist Jamie Hewlett have extended the style of their cartoon-pop group Gorillaz into this production, which manages to embrace a diverse audience of youngsters, music fans and those of us who still want to bellow 'Piggssssy' or sing the theme music to the original TV show every time we think about it.

They have delivered a glorious two-hour romp of spectacle and extravagance. Combining acrobatics with operatic extravagance, the fast pace ensures the mind can never wander – even despite the entire thing being conducted in Mandarin (there are subtitles, don't fret).

What's more, there is some truly clever use of animation to convey some of the more fantastic aspects of the show.

But it is the warmth and good humour that really makes this special. Perhaps it is nostalgia, perhaps it is simply a truly fascinating tale (and I suspect a healthy dose of both) but, this is well worth every penny.

Monkey: Journey To The West has had its run in the Monkey House – a large tent next to the O2 – extended until January 4.



CINEMA

TWILIGHT (12 A)

Stephenie Meyer's best-selling Twilight novels, a series of teen fantasies in which vampires and mortals live side by side, have become one of the biggest publishing phenomena since Harry Potter.

In August this year across the Atlantic, a high-profile midnight release for the fourth book in the saga, Breaking Dawn, resulted in an incredible 1.3 million copies flying off shelves in the first 24 hours.

Needless to say, with such a sizeable fanbase, Catherine Hardwicke's film, adapted for the screen by Melissa Rosenberg, was always going to be a licence to print money. So it comes as a pleasant surprise that despite flaws, including a stilted dialogue and a generous grating of cheesiness, Twilight is an entertaining and sprightly romantic yarn.

Special effects are convincing without ever being dazzling and handsome leads Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson stare at one another with such intensity, it's hard not to be swept up in their characters' ill-fated romance.

Stewart plays teenage misfit Bella Swan, who moves to Forks, Washington, to live with her cop father, Charlie (Billy Burke). As the new girl at school, Bella soon makes friends but the only person she wants to meet is alluring outsider Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson).

In the parking lot one day, Bella is almost crushed to death in a freak traffic accident, only to be saved in the nick of time by Edward.

"Are you going to tell me how you stopped the van?" she asks him, referring to his superhuman strength. "A rush of adrenaline," he offers. "It's really common, you can Google it."

Edward eventually reveals that he is a vampire – an immortal – but unlike many of his kind, he does not drink human blood.

When bloodthirsty Laurent (Gathegi), James (Cam Gigandet) and Victoria (Rachelle Lefevre) begin to feed on Fork locals, the Cullens close ranks to protect Bella from her immortal pursuers.

Violence takes place predominantly off screen until a fast-paced finale, during which the fake claret runeth over and fangs are bared.

A subplot involving family friend Jacob Black (Lautner) and his American Indian tribe poses tantalising questions for subsequent films.

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (U)

Director Sam Fell (Flushed Away) returns to the rodent underworld with first-time co-director Robert Stevenhagen for this fable based on Kate DiCamillo's award-winning book.

Set in a magical kingdom overcome by grief, The Tale Of Despereaux is almost as gloomy and glum as its characters, never matching the vibrancy or energy of the computer animation as one plucky mouse risks everything to save a friend from being eaten alive by rats.

Comparisons with Ratatouille are inevitable, considering both pictures deal with heroes



LOVE BITES: Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart in slushy but entertaining vampire flick, Twilight

overcoming their diminutive stature to prove themselves giants when it matters most.

However, Fell and Stevenhagen's vision pales next to Pixar's masterpiece, lacking comedy, sweetness and the big crescendo these stories of triumph against adversity surely deserve.

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS (15)

David Parfitt's comedy examines the clash of cultures when an arrogant American star descends on a sleepy English village. Ageing Hollywood actor Jefferson Steel (Burt Reynolds) is desperate to revive his flagging career, badgering his Los Angeles agent for a high-profile comeback.

Jefferson is delighted to land the Holy Grail of stage roles: King Lear in a Royal Shakespeare Company production at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Crossing the Atlantic, the Hollywood actor gets a rude awakening when he discovers he has been contracted to tread the boards with the amateur dramatic society in the close-knit village of Stratford St John in leafy Suffolk.

GONZO: THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR HUNTER S THOMPSON

Journalist Hunter S Thompson enjoyed life in the fast lane, indulging in alcohol and drugs as a creative spark for his febrile imagination to churn out seminal articles on the Hell's Angels and the political establishment for Rolling Stone magazine.

Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Alex Gibney (Taxi To The Dark Side) employs home movies, archive TV footage, audio recordings, still photographs and other material to delve into the mind of this iconic yet tragic figure, interspersed with narration from Johnny Depp.

BICYCLE THIEVES (U)

Re-release of Vittorio De Sica's 1948 masterpiece, which is frequently listed by critics as one of the greatest films of all time. Unemployed father Ricci (Lamberto

Maggiore) searches for work so he can provide for his wife Maria (Lianella Carell) and young son Bruno (Enzo Staiola).

A position becomes available for someone with a bicycle to hang posters across Rome. Ricci seizes the opportunity and retrieves his trusty two-wheeler from the local pawnshop. Unfortunately, it is stolen – perhaps by another resident in search of a job for his family – and Ricci and Bruno track down the thief, without any help from the police, who have better things to do with their time.

STONE OF DESTINY (PG)

Based on Ian Hamilton's book, Stone Of Destiny is a heart-warming drama inspired by the true story of impassioned Scottish students who masterminded the theft of The Stone Of Scone from Westminster Abbey in 1950.

For centuries, Scottish monarchs sat on the Stone during their coronation until the late 13th century, when Edward I removed it to London so English monarchs would be crowned king or queen of Scotland as well.

Glasgow University student Hamilton (Charlie Cox) hatches a daring plan to return this symbol of Scottish pride to its rightful place, joining forces with fellow students Kay (Kate Mara), Bill (Billy Boyd) and Alan (Ciaron Kelly) to break into the Abbey, avoid the security guards and drive the Stone all the way back up north.

LA BOHEME (PG)

Robert Dornhelm directs this filmed staging of Puccini's enduringly popular opera. On a frosty Christmas Eve, poet Rodolfo (Rolando Villazon) and painter Marcello (George von Bergen) struggle to complete their artistic endeavours in the extreme cold. The housemates are interrupted by the rallying cry of Schaunard (Adrian Erod) who is flush with money, and wishes to celebrate with his friends at Café Momus.

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Why not take a walk on the wild side this Boxing Day?

WORK off that Christmas pudding with a Boxing Day walk at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe.

Set in 600 acres, Port Lympne has an historic mansion and breathtaking views of the Romney Marsh, the perfect place to enjoy a breath of fresh air. Visitors can enjoy a 90-minute guided walk around the park in the company of a knowledgeable guide,

who will be able to answer questions about the park's residents.

With about 1,000 animals in the park, there will be opportunities for walkers to spot many fascinating creatures.

The walks start at 10am and noon and places should be booked in advance.

Admission costs £12/£9 and is free

for under-fours. After the walk, the rest of the day can be spent exploring the park.

Visitors could also enjoy the African Experience in a specially-commissioned safari vehicle, enabling them to spot animals as if on the plains of Africa. Tickets cost £5/£3.

For more information call 01303 264647 or visit www.totallywild.net.



Book a first-class ticket to see Santa

GET on track for an encounter with Father Christmas at the Kent & East Sussex Railway in Tenterden.

Running until Christmas Eve, the Santa Specials are proving very popular. Sunday's trains were nearly sold out at the time of writing, but there are still opportunities to get onboard for a great family day out.

Tickets include a return train ride from Tenterden to Wittersham Road, a ride on the Victorian carousel at Tenterden Station and free limited parking.

Each child aged from 18 months to 15 will receive a gift, a drink and chocolate and there will be a mince pie and sherry, port or orange juice for the adults.

Standard class tickets cost £15 for adults and children aged over 18 months, while first class tickets cost £18.50.

People who would like to ride on a Santa



Special should book quickly to avoid missing out on this festive treat.

To book call 01580 765155 or visit the website at www.kesr.org.uk.

Peep into pantomime

LITTLE Bo Peep: The Laughter Pantomime will give families the chance to enjoy some great entertainment between Christmas and New Year.

Packed with song, dance and family comedy with it is a tale of good versus evil, star-crossed lovers and opportunities for audience participation.

Gordon Clarkson stars as Simple Simon (pictured) alongside Peter Such as Dame Dora, Anthea Preston as Fairy



Terpsicorea, Michael Flagg as Erlking the Elf, Karen Williams as The Sprite, Rosi Cornwell as a thigh-slapping Boy Blue and Stacie Chadwick as Bo Peep. Live music will be provided by Max Rennie and Craig Joyner.

The show runs at Westgate Pavilion in Westgate-on-Sea from Boxing Day on Friday to Sunday, December 28.

Tickets cost £8/£4 and are available from the box office on 01843 835611.

Karis on into New Year



USHER in the New Year with some good company and live music at the Wild Duck Inn in Marden Thorn.

Professional singer Karis Lianne (pictured) will be providing the entertainment at the pub's New Year's Eve party, which starts at 9pm and goes on until late.

She was in a girl band for five years and has performed on cruise ships and in musical shows in Cyprus and Rhodes. Karis is now back in the UK and is patron of the Maidstone-based Harmony VG, which makes performing arts available to the whole community.

Partygoers can enjoy a dressed buffet, a glass of champagne and fireworks at midnight. There will be a minibus to take local people home after the festivities, which must be booked in advance.

The traditional country pub between Marden and Staplehurst. Tickets cost £30, to book in advance call 01622 831340. For more information visit www.thewildduck.co.uk.

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Food for thought

Top chef Antony Worrall Thompson offers handy tips and short cuts to help you avoid chaos in the kitchen over the festive period

THE Christmas season can often see you cooking for more people than perhaps you and your oven are used to and for some that may spell disaster.

To help you enjoy cooking over the festive season, Antony Worrall Thompson, who was educated at The King's School, Canterbury, has put together some short cuts, tips and hints that will ensure you feel confident in the kitchen to weather the increase in demand on your culinary skills.

Worrall Thompson says: "I love Christmas. I love the whole tradition, sights and smells of Christmas. We always have the traditional turkey and all the trimmings, but with so much going on with family in the house on the day, I always make sure I've planned the timings carefully and stick to a schedule.

"A crowded kitchen can create chaos, so I recommend you ask one or two people to help at a time. Even if someone just disposes of the dirty dishes, it all helps you stay focused on the timing.

"Keep it simple and make sure someone is tasked with the most important job of all – ensuring the chef doesn't get thirsty!"

WORRALL THOMPSON'S FESTIVE DOS AND DON'TS

1) Do cut corners by being prepared: Make a list, schedule your time so that you can make brandy butter, mince pies, stuffing and cranberry sauce this weekend or in the next few days: freeze them and thaw overnight on Christmas Eve. If guests drop by unexpectedly, don't panic, you can cook mince pies from frozen.

2) Don't slow cook the turkey: Unless you like the taste of shoe leather, don't slow cook the turkey overnight. The best way to ensure you get a juicy and succulent bird cooked in good time is to add stock, a glug of white wine and some herbs to the roasting tin, cover the turkey and tin completely in Bacofoil to keep heat in and speed

up cooking times. Cook your stuffing in a separate baking tray to save time, as an unstuffed turkey cooks more quickly than one with stuffing in its cavity.

3) Do juggle roast potatoes: If you are cooking with a conventional single oven, then you will really benefit from pre-cooking the roast potatoes for 40 minutes before the turkey goes into the oven to help relieve the burden on your cooker. The turkey will need 20 minutes' standing time tightly wrapped in foil to allow the juices to go back into the flesh, having risen to the surface during cooking. So during this time, turn up the oven to hot and pop your potatoes back in to finish roasting and crisp up.

4) Don't have gravy grumbles: if making real gravy always ends up a scramble, or you don't have a suitable roasting tin to do this on your hob, for no hassle lump-free gravy try Antony Worrall Thompson's Chicken Gravy Paste (£1.99 from Tesco or mail order at www.jardox.com).

Simply disperse the paste in cold water, heat it gently until it thickens and serve. Add three or four tablespoons of turkey cooking juices for extra flavour.

5) Do bake ahead: take the time this weekend to cook in bulk and freeze dishes that can be fed to the masses when you're just too tired to cook from

scratch. The basic meat for lasagnes, shepherd and cottage pies, moussakas and Bolognese can all be prepared using my 'Really Useful Mince' recipe which is the perfect standby for converting any of these mince-type dishes into gourmet delights. You'll need 1.75kg of minced beef, plus lots of store cupboard basics.

For the full recipe visit www.awtonline.co.uk or find it featured in Antony's cookbook, *Real Family Food* (Mitchell Beasley) £16.99 from www.octopusbooks.co.uk.

QUICK-FIX PARTY TIPS

EXPECT GUESTS: Keep breadsticks handy for pre-dinner snacks and appetisers. Antony Worrall Thompson's

freshly baked ciabatta-style croutini and breadsticks pack a real crunch and come in a variety of flavours to complement many dips. Available from Morrison's, Waitrose and Booth's priced around £1.99 for 95g (breadsticks) and 90g (croutini).

Try the following:

1) Crispy cranberry bites: Top Antony Worrall Thompson's Olive, Sea Salt & Black Pepper Croutini with a thin slice of brie. Melt it under the grill for 30 seconds then add a dollop of hot or cold cranberry sauce. Serve immediately.

2) Saucy salsa dip: Buy a ready-made salsa dip and thoroughly stir in about 8oz of cream or curd cheese until you have the ideal dipping consistency. Or visit www.awtonline.co.uk for a homemade version that you can make up and refrigerate for convenience. Serve with Antony Worrall Thompson's Garlic & Coriander Breadsticks and strips of carrot, cucumber and yellow pepper for a cheerful festive snack platter.

STORE CUPBOARD SECRETS FOR TASTY LEFTOVERS:

Make sure you have plenty of herbs and spices tucked away, plain flour, dried mustard, onions, eggs, and Christmas spices such as



BE PREPARED: Antony Worrall Thompson says there is no need to be caught out at Christmas when entertaining guests

cinnamon and dried fruits. You'll no doubt have used some of these in your Christmas cooking from scratch and they will be handy for turning your leftovers into tasty treats.

Worrall Thompson says: "When I was young the Sunday roast was always a source of left-over meals for the next few days and so the Christmas lunch is no different really.

"One of my favourite left-over recipes are cromeski's, a crispy pancake roll usually served with a crisp salad."

• To find out more about Antony's range of food, kitchen and lifestyle products visit www.awtonline.co.uk.



Simply disperse the paste in cold water, heat it gently until it thickens and serve. Add three or four tablespoons of turkey cooking juices for extra flavour.

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Family stocking fillers

Check out gift ideas for both young and old this Christmas

By **JANE CONNOLLY**

ON Christmas Eve, Santa Claus will be piling his sleigh high with goodies and setting off to reward good children all over the world.

But sometimes he needs a little help, so here are some great ideas for filling your family's festive stockings. From the youngest to the oldest members of the household, there are plenty of exciting small gifts to be found on the high street this year.

Hawkin's Bazaar has a vast array of toys, gadgets and fun items that will intrigue the whole family. With prices starting at just a few pence for cheap and cheerful toys, there is sure to be something to suit every budget.

If you are looking to spend a little more, why not take a trip back in time and get creative with a plasticine Morph set (£9.99). If you can fit it in the stocking, children could awake on Christmas morning to the sight of a huge silly monster puppet (£24.99) peeking out of the top.

According to the store, the trend this year is for traditional toys and it has plenty of retro fun on offer, from spud guns

(£2.99) to a classic bicycle bell (£2.99).

Children can test their might with the Science Museum Strength Ball (Argos, £7.99), find out how steady their hands are with a Pik-a-Stik Game (John Lewis, £5) or get a Christmas cuddle from a magnificent moose (John Lewis, £10).

Serve up a festive treat for men in the form of a Jamie Oliver Top Dad mug (Argos, £9.99) or a racing helmet mug (Bhs, £6). Make sure they will be ready to hit the January sales with a new leather wallet from Burton (£10) or test their mind with a gridlock puzzle (John Lewis, £7).

Comic book fans will be in the frame with the Marvel mug and tie set (£10) while comedy fans will have a laugh with the Trotter van key ring (£4), both from Debenhams.

Ladies will sleep tight on Christmas night with a leopard print eye mask (Accessorize, £6), after enjoying a relaxing cup of Handwarmer hot chocolate with white chocolate chunks and marshmallows (John Lewis, £5). Keeping warm in the winter weather will be easy in a pair of Nordic slippers (George at Asda, £4) while snuggling up to a cheeky monkey hot water bottle (Bhs, £12).

Appeal to a sweet tooth with a mini gumball machine

(£5) or a Thomas the Tank Engine mallow lolly (£1.50), both from Bhs. Thorntons has a great range of fun chocolate treats from milk chocolate coins (99p) and Santa bars (£1) to a white chocolate snowman (£5.99).

Fact fans will love a game of Top Trumps (Waterstone's, from £2.59) or keeping their mind active with Sudoku toilet paper (www.gettingpersonal.co.uk, £2.95). For a fragrant festive season, The Body Shop has a range of gorgeous toiletries in seasonal scents, such as the Cranberry Shimmer Soap (£3).

With such an array of fabulous gift ideas available, becoming Santa's little helper should be easy this year.

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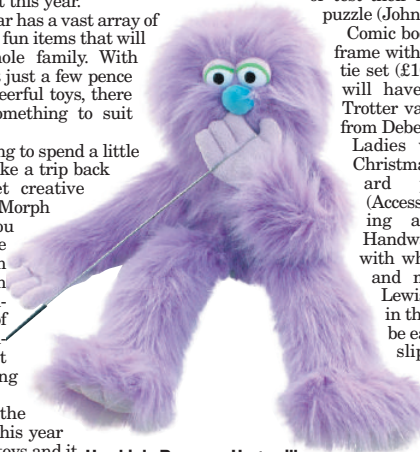


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Hawkin's Bazaar - Huge silly monster puppet, £24.99



Hawkin's Bazaar - Plasticine Morph set, £9.99

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Burton – Leather wallet, £10



The Body Shop – Cranberry shimmer soap, £3



Argos – Jamie Oliver Top Dad mug, £9.99

Argos – Science Museum Strength Ball £7.99



Accessorize – Leopard print eye mask, price £6



Bhs – Gumball machine, price £5



Bhs – Thomas the Tank Engine mallow lolly, £1.50



John Lewis – Cuddly moose, £10



Debenhams – Trotter van key ring, £4



www.gettingpersonal.co.uk – Sudoku toilet roll, £2.95



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Santa's Arriving

Santa is in his grotto every Saturday in December, come and see him at 10am til 4pm on the 6th, 13th, 20th, 22nd, 23, and Christmas Eve! Its just £1 to see him and every child recieves a gift.

All proceeds go directly to Age Concern, the chosen charity Park Mall are supporting. Please make sure all children seeing santa are accompanied by an adult.



Scary DVD and tune-filled CDs

TAKE five Coronation Street Stars, three haunted locations on the Isle of Man, several hand-held cameras, leave overnight and release the consequences on DVD.

One of Christmas' more bizarre offerings allows you to join Corrie Ghost Hunters Kym Ryder (Michelle Connor), Tupele Dorgu (Kelly Crabtree), Wendi Peters (formerly Cilla Battersby-

Brown), Jack P Shepherd (David Platt) and Katherine Kelly (Becky Grainger) as they are, according to the makers: "Led by Yvette Fielding on a journey into the unknown that pushes them to their psychological limits and forces them to confront their darkest fears in what turns out to be an eerie and very emotional night".



THE Christmas Jukebox CD set is different from your average Yuletide collection because as well as seasonal classics, it includes festive top 40 hits of recent years.

As a result, favourites such as Merry Christmas Everybody (Slade), White Christmas (Bing Crosby) and Christmas Time (Status Quo) come up against the pop antics of Busted with Year 3000, Shine (Take That) and Rehab (Amy Winehouse).

There are a few surprises along the way; Cascada's



take on yuletide classic Last Christmas, Ronan Keating's rendition of Fairytale of New York and chart favourites Girls Aloud singing Not Tonight Santa.

Christmas is the time for giving and receiving CD compilations. Two from the Ministry of Sound are sure to be filling many Christmas stockings this year.

Ministry of Sound's Anthems, which has sold more than half a million copies, has a successor; Anthems II.



Over the course of three CDs, Anthems II is filled with beats and mixes by top DJs, ranging from Armand Van Helden's 90s remix of Tori Amos' Professional Window, to Orbital's Chime.

Also making a return this year is the Ministry's Annual collection, packed with the tunes that have rung out over dancefloors in 2008, from the chart topping Dizzee Rascal feat. Calvin Harris (Dance With Me) to Wiley (Wearing My Rolex).

Disney games to make kids th!nk

DISNEY is mounting a powerful challenge to the more established video game makers this Christmas with a series of titles sure to have wide appeal to children and families.

Players can become their favourite Disney character and take on family and friends in the game show-style quiz game, Disney Think Fast, which is available on PlayStation 2 and Nintendo Wii. Hosted by Genie from Disney's Aladdin, the game has more than 15 rounds - ranging from multiple-choice questions to mini-games. There are more than 5,000 Disney-themed questions.

Disney Sing it! Allows the player to take to the stage and sing their heart out to any one of 35 songs from Disney shows like Camp Rock and Hannah Montana. It also gives you the chance to perfect your singing skills with special vocal training.

For young members of your family, Disney Fairies: Tinker Bell on Nintendo DS brings the world of Tinker Bell alive. Players explore the world of Pixie Hollow and meet other Disney fairies including Silvermist, Iridessa and Fawn. Embark on adventures, explore fashion tastes and complete fun quests to earn fairy coins, which can be spent on dresses, costumes, shoes and accessories.

To tie in with the smash hit film series, Disney have released High School Musical 3: Senior Year Dance! On Wii and PS2. The game allows the player to try out their best dance moves as Troy, Gabriella or one of the other characters from the High School Musical gang.

There are more than 30 hit songs to choose



from and you can take on your friends and family in head-to-head mode, dance along to the tunes together or perform a duet.

In a similar vein, High School Musical 3: Senior Year for NDS allows you to play Gabriella and Troy, as well as Jimmie and Tiara from High School Musical 3. As you play, capture your high school memories and store them in your own yearbook. While at East High, you can take High School Musical-themed quizzes and see if you a true Wildcat.

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iPod speakers a sound move

THE technology for iPods is getting better all the time. Now, as well as simply plugging in headphones, there's a range of gadgets that allow you to listen to music stored on them in the car or with friends.

Instead of buying big stereo systems, these days many people are simply upgrading their iPods with speakers – and there's a good selection on the market.

British firm Gear4's Duo (£149.99) is a

38W home stereo speaker system with a detachable portable speaker, in one.

It comprises a bass unit and satellite speaker, which can be used together as a home stereo speaker system, or the satellite can be un-docked for a portable unit for taking around the house, garden or on your travels.

HouseParty 4 (£69.99) is certified Made For iPod – simply dock your iPod and it will

play automatically. It also features an inbuilt FM radio with 10 programmable preset stations and a line-in port for use with other music players.

It features seven preset EQ settings (including Jazz, Pop, Rock, Flat, Classic and Bass) to match your music to different bass and treble levels as required.

More information is available online at www.gear4.com.



BRING THE NOISE: (left) House Party 4 features an inbuilt FM radio and (right) Gear4's Duo 38W home stereo speaker with detachable portable speaker

CHRISTMAS time means much more than mistletoe and wine to chocoholics.

Chocolate on Chocolate, a family-run confectioner, has a festive range of more than 50 sweet stocking fillers.

White chocolate snowflakes, multi-coloured baubles and dark Christmas puddings are handcrafted out of Belgian chocolate.

Snowmen and polar bears sit alongside the stockings and angels for anyone whose winter enjoyment doesn't depend on carolling and tinsel.

Flo Broughton, company founder, said: "People are having to cut back on expensive gifts this year so these luxury chocolates are the perfect way to keep giving really special presents without maxing out the credit card."

"At a time of year so focussed on children, it's also great to remember that no one is too old for a little treat on Christmas morning."

All the products are available from www.chocolateonchocolate.co.uk.

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Picture: TRACEY SMITH



Experience the call of the wild

HEAR the animals every day with a range of innovative new ringtones from the Aspinall Foundation.

The charity behind the Port Lympne and Howletts wild animal parks has created a collection of ringtones featuring their residents, offering mobile phone users the chance to really ring the changes as they start the new year. Why herald the arrival of a call with a pop song or film theme, when you could hear the trumpeting of an African cow elephant?

The wild cries on offer include the calls of a Siamang gibbon, a Diana monkey, an African hunting dog, a Malaysian tapir and a guinea baboon. The sounds were captured with the assistance of Advanced Telecom Services and Summersdale Productions, who converted them into a ringtone format.

The cost of downloading each tone is £1.50 and all proceeds will go to the charity, which carries out important work in its conservation, breeding and rehabilitation programmes for endangered species.

The ringtones are at www.totallywild.net. Hear the real thing by visiting Port Lympne or Howletts. Both parks are open every day except Christmas Day.

Sea great gifts

NATURE lovers can help to protect sealife when they buy gorgeous gifts from the RSPB this Christmas.

The wildlife charity has launched a range of quirky items to help raise money for its marine campaign Safeguard Our Sealife.

Kids will fall in love with the plush seahorse carrying three cute babies (£8.99), along with cuddly grey seals and puffins.

Keep track of next year's activities with the themed calendar (£6.99) or bring home your Christmas shopping the ethical way, with a sealife bag made from recycled plastic bottles (£5.49). Alternatively, sponsor a puffin – packages start from £18.

All profits go directly back into RSPB's conservation efforts, helping protect the wealth of sealife that makes its home in UK waters. See www.rspbshop.co.uk or call 0845 1200501.

Gifts for the green fingered

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

THERE are so many gardening gifts out there this festive season to suit all pockets and tastes. It's reassuring to see so many have been produced with eco-friendly materials, and designed with wildlife in mind.

Here are just a few of the ones which have caught my eye...

- Adopt a vine gift box: This is a wine lover's dream: a vine dedicated to them at a British vineyard and some tasty perks to go with it. First register ownership and then receive a privilege card entitling the recipient to a vineyard tour, a wine tasting and 10 per cent discount at the vineyard shop. (£29.99, Leukaemia Research – www.leukaemiaishop.com, 01736 364636)

- For contemporary gardens, check out this stylish glass bird feeder. Made of mouth-blown glass, it would make a wonderful decorative feature and will soon find fans among small birds all year round. (£29.95, Natural Collection – www.shop.com), pictured centre.

- For a really individual gift, check out gettingpersonal.co.uk for its personalised gardening calendar. Each image for every month includes your chosen name or names spelt out on a lovely gardening photograph, and includes a personal greeting message of up to 150 characters. Available in two versions, wall hanging A4 size or desktop tent style. (£14.95, www.gettingpersonal.co.uk, 0845 2176382)

- I'm still wearing the faux fur-lined Mammoth (£34.95) from my favourite gardening shoe range, Crocs. Now they've brought out a warm fur-lined boot, the Nadia, ideal for braving the winter elements (£68), and even a comfy children's wellie, the Flurry (£36). (www.crocs.eu/shop/)

- For a practical stocking filler, try the new Wilkinson Sword Comfort Grip Scissors, designed for deadheading a variety of houseplants and larger outdoor foliage, plants and house trees. The handles are larger and



soft-touch material has been used to create the loop-shaped design that provides overall comfort and control. The stainless steel blades give a clean, one-snip cut. (£8.99, from selected independent garden centres and nurseries, B&Q and Sainsbury's)

- If the man in your life needs to put up a trellis, shelves in the shed, build a tree house for the kids or make a compost frame, he'll need the right tools for the job. Bosch is claiming a world first with its launch of the Uneo, a cordless screwdriver, drill and rotary hammer all-in-one tool.

Weighing 1.1 kilos and no bigger than an A5 sheet of paper, this compact power-pack makes light work of screwdriving, hammering and drilling – even through concrete – thanks to its pneumatic hammer mechanism and lithium-ion battery. So, no trailing cable and, hopefully, no accidents. (RRP £119.99. For more information visit www.bosch-do-it.co.uk/diy/ or call 0844 7360107).

- Stylish long-stemmed glass tealight holders will bring both the indoors and outdoors to life. They can be used in flowerbeds, pots, vases and even wine bottles. A range of colours is available. (£13.95, www.inspire-inspire.co.uk or 01953 488907).

- If you are forever losing your gardening string, these jute twine holders, designed and hand-crafted in the UK, are ideal for



hanging in the greenhouse, potting shed or kitchen. Complete with chunky twine and scissors, they also ensure the twine doesn't get tangled. (£12, www.fairwindonline.com or 020 83746254)

- From the same company, these gorgeous gardener's journals are made using genuine English leather, protected with a special water-repellent finish so they can be used all year round. A practical gift for recording the seasons' events in the greenhouse and garden, it comes complete with a refillable, bound, plain paper notebook and wood pencil. (£29.50, www.fairwindonline.com or 020 83746254)

- A membership to the National Gardens Scheme's new Friends programme would make the perfect Christmas gift, granting the recipient free access to beautiful gardens, while helping to raise money for charity.

For £10 a year, 'Friends' will receive a free copy of the famous Yellow Book (pictured above), listing 3,600 mostly private gardens which open to the public every year, and a bi-annual newsletter keeping them in touch with the stories behind the garden openings. A highlight for 2009 will be an evening hosted by Alan Titchmarsh. Charities supported include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help The Hospices, and Crossroads – Caring for Carers. (Join at www.ngs.org.uk, email friends@ngs.org.uk or call 01483 213910)

- If the gardener in your life likes music, buy them a water-resistant Eton Am/Fm Wind Up Radio with siren, torch, and phone charger. With three sources of power (battery, mains and wind up) and a durable exterior it is a versatile and Eco-friendly radio, which comes in a range of colours. (£39.99 Nigel's Eco Store – nigelsecostore.com, or 0800 2888970)

- Vegetable gardeners can help to protect Britain's vegetable heritage with a gift membership to Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library. For £20, recipients receive a gift pack containing news, a seed catalogue from which they can choose six packs of seeds they want to grow, along with one packet of complimentary seeds from the library. Membership of the seed library also entitles them to a quarterly newsletter, and expert help and advice.

For details go to www.gardenorganic.org.uk or call 024 76303517.

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Feed your conscience

RESTAURANT REVIEW

By DAVE MAIRS

THE provenance and environmental credentials of our food are, of course, the current flavour of the month.

In truth, they have been so for considerably longer than you may think. After all, we're not the first generation to have an ecological conscience.

Nevertheless, there's no mistaking the lengths some are going to in their efforts to keep the world on its axis while hopefully making a decent living.

Take the Bayside Brasserie in Broadstairs. Visit its excellent website (although it doesn't appear to work fully on all browsers) and under 'Environmental Policy' you'll find the usual stuff... recycling of glass, paper and cardboard; energy-efficient light bulbs; dual-flush toilets and so on. All worthy (meant genuinely), but not the sort of thing to make you look twice.

Unlike the brasserie's bid to convert old cooking oil ("used to fry the delicious hand-made chips") into biodiesel to fuel the company car. You, apparently diners and other restaurateurs alike, are even encouraged to join this "work in progress". They clearly mean business here, in every sense.

Which is reason enough to back what owner David Sworder and his team are doing. But, maybe more importantly, depending on your take on life, The Bayside Brasserie is an excellent restaurant.

The corner site it occupies at the junction of Albion Street and Harbour Street has had many incarnations over the years, the most recent before The Bayside if memory serves (it rarely does these days) being a Chinese restaurant.

There is, however, a feel of permanence to this venture, which marks Mr Sworder's return to the culinary world after a self-imposed break in 2004.

His credentials are strong (he learnt his trade at Langan's Brasserie in London), while well-fed Thanetians may remember him from Mortons Fork in Minster and The



Chequers in Deal. In Broadstairs he has teamed up with head chef Tony Davis – another London trainee, this time at The Waldorf Hotel – to conjure one of the town's best eating experiences.

The restaurant is bright, airy and very pastel. It enjoys a relaxed atmosphere which sets you at ease from the minute you recline in an armchair with your opening glass of wine (and yes, we chose Kentish).

The food is fresh, excellently cooked and – altogether now – locally sourced where possible.

I'm not mocking. It's important, not least in a corner of the county where the idea of the Garden of England seems to be largely scorned by the powers-that-be.

If a piece of land is deemed not to pay its way here, expect it to disappear under a

housing estate/business park/road/other. Soon.

So if you want to keep a vestige of open space east of the Stour, eat local.

On my Bayside visit, I had squid to start (£6.50), followed by extra-mature chargrilled ribeye steak with herb butter, chips and salad (£17.50) and fresh pineapple with home-made Malibu and coconut ice-cream (£4.50).

All were delightful; the steak cooked to perfection and the pineapple and ice cream an explosion of taste. And, for the record, the chips were indeed delicious.

For the other half, the running order was butternut squash soup with a basil pesto crouton (£4), chargrilled monkfish with roast red pepper and saffron sauce served on crushed new potatoes and green beans (£16.50) and lavender and vanilla crème brûlée (£4.50).

Her verdict was just as positive as mine.

The service was excellent, the whole feel friendly. In short, a flawless evening.

If you visit, as you should, ask them how the company car's getting on.

Total cost (including a £15.50 bottle of wine): £70.50.

The Bayside Brasserie, 54 Albion

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<http://thebaysidebrasserie.co.uk/>

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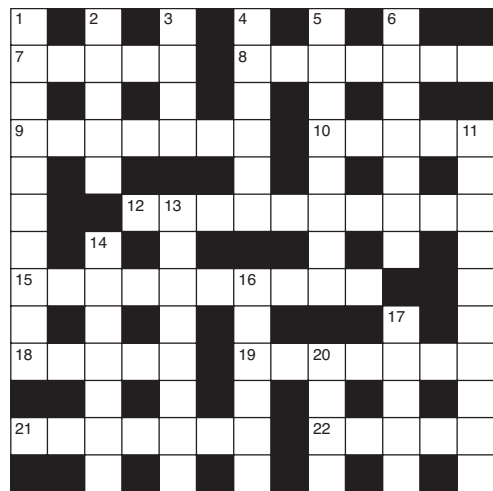
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No 314



CROSSWORD No 314

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

7. Additional extravagance at first (5)
8. Ancient hero who took the ones here to America (7)
9. Where birds win money by cheating at cards? (7)
10. Soft swelling is well rounded (5)
12. So pretence turns out to be what everybody knows unofficially (4,6)
15. See 3 Down.
18. Poor dunderhead goes back to languish (5)
19. He needs his eyes open for his pupils to be clearly seen (7)
21. Regard to business (7)
22. Change there and get a number (5)

DOWN

1. Don't forget the wild animal you're thinking about (4,2,4)

2. Plunder's going up to have a seat! (5)
- 3 & 15 Across. Although you understand quite a bit, don't be offended (4,2,4,4)
4. The prop is attached, so don't go away (4,2)
5. Springtime? (4,4)
6. Need about a couple of dozen sheets of paper (7)
11. Suitably arrange to make a formal request for goods (3,2,5)
13. More punctual helper behind the scenes (8)
14. A sufficient reason for being on the rocks, perhaps (7)
16. It's clear father has what he needs for camping (6)
17. It raised the tone quickly (5)
20. She's in the choir: get her out altogether! (4)

8. Malady (7)
9. Lachrymose (7)
10. Put off (5)
12. Colony (10)
15. Becoming adult (10)
18. Joins timber (5)
19. Unvarying (7)
21. Pleas (7)
22. Frequently (5)

DOWN

1. Diplomacy (10)
2. Massive (5)
3. Cook (4)
4. Quarters (6)
5. Club (8)
6. Pagan (7)
11. Withdrawal (10)
13. Regularity (8)
14. Decorative pelmet (7)
16. Ocean travel (6)
17. Value (5)
20. Image (4)

QUICK CLUES

7. Light-giver (5)

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS 314: ACROSS: 7. Extravagance; 8. Hercules; 9. Birdland; 10. Swelling; 12. Pretence; 15. See 3 Down; 18. Languish; 19. Eyes; 21. Business; 22. Change; DOWN: 1. Animal; 2. Diplomacy; 3. Cook; 4. Quarters; 5. Club; 6. Pagan; 11. Withdrawal; 13. Regularity; 14. Pelmet; 16. Ocean; 17. Value; 20. Image.

• The winner of the last crossword (no 313) is Mr B Chalmers, of Chilham

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Letters continue from p28

condemn the Government for turning back the clock a century or so in order to please a multi-million pound industry. Nothing changes does it?

*Colin Packman, President,
Park Home Residents' Action Alliance,
Tonbridge*

Show some respect

The campaign by Usdaw, the shop workers' union, to ask shoppers to 'Keep Your Cool at Christmas' is a timely reminder to us all.

No shop worker should be subjected to verbal abuse or threats. Nor should anyone working in our health services where Unison, the public services union, has been running a similar campaign, be abused or threatened.

The run-up to Christmas can be a hectic time and the weather can be foul, but there is no excuse for treating people without respect. And there is absolutely no excuse for threats or physical violence.

The Christmas shoppers and staff, patients and nurses are likely to have the personal consequences of the global financial crises on their minds as well as shopping.

But I very much hope that everyone will get behind the unions' call to 'Keep Your Cool at Christmas'.

If we all do so, we are all more likely to have the Merry Christmas and the Happy New Year we all look forward to.

*Eileen Rowbotham,
County Councillor for Dover North*

How long do you need?

Mr Derek Smyth's reply to my letter with reference to this irresponsible and untrustworthy Labour government is typical of a Labour politician when faced with awkward questions or statements.

Straight out of Alasdair Campbell's guide book, How to be Evasive comes the stereotype reply:

1) Only answer those problems where there may be a chance of getting away with it

2) Blame the Conservatives. This tries to shift the blame and besides it looks good for any doubting Labour supporters

3) Twist the facts. Always use government figures and avoid any reference to independent evidence.

I am sorry Mr Smyth, but independent evidence shows that immigration is out of control and that this government has no idea of the scale of the problem.

Just look at the panic caused to the Home Office with the current Damian Green affair.

One only has to listen to the daily travel news to hear of rail delays and cancellations along with chaos on the roads.

Independent assessments of crime have shown that during the 10-year tenure of this Labour administration, crime has increased. No doubt that to some extent this increase is due to the 'Cherie Blair Pension Pot', ie, 'The Human Rights Act', but there is a more disturbing element that due to the control freaks that run the police, the poor old bobby is so busy filling in forms and being politically correct that they do not have the time to respond to the public. As a result the public has given up reporting crime.

When it comes to increased taxation, Labour only speaks of income tax, carefully avoiding scrapping the 10p tax and putting millions of poor people into taxation at a higher level.

Of course, Labour can generally avoid increasing income tax if it raises all the others and invents new taxes.

Finally, 'if' we can accept that 10 years ago some of Conservative systems may not be suitable today, why has this government taken 10 years to correct them?

Come on Mr Smyth, 10 years is a long time – how much time does Labour need – 30-40 years? Heaven forbid such a disaster.

*Trevor Vince
Finglesham, Deal*

Take up the challenge

As a World, Commonwealth, and Olympic gold medalist I know all about setting goals and taking on challenges, even when they might seem impossible to achieve.

That's why I would encourage anyone

looking for a challenge to sign up for one of Marie Curie Cancer Care's wonderful Rise to the Challenge events.

The Rise to the Challenge events programme has something for everyone; from treks in the Peruvian Andes to walking in the Lake District, as well as abseiling at some of the UK's most stunning sites.

And of course, my favourite, cycle challenges such as Cork to Dublin or the Canadian Rockies, so if the cycling doesn't leave you breathless the scenery certainly will!

So no matter where you are, what your age or ability, you can get fit and get active with Marie Curie Cancer Care. And what makes taking on these challenges all the more worthwhile is that the money you raise from them will make it possible for people who are terminally ill to be cared for and spend their last days in the comfort of their own homes, surrounded by their family and friends. I have had personal experiences of cancer within my own family and I understand the huge difference this choice can make.

My next cycling challenge will be the World Championships in 2009, but I hope I will succeed in inspiring you to take on an event for Marie Curie Cancer Care; these will be my own personal challenges. What will yours be?

Check out www.mariecurie.org.uk/challenge for inspiration or call 08700 340 040.

Chris Hoy

Olympic triple gold medallist in Beijing

Support our Gurkhas

Two of the Sittingbourne and Sheppey Liberal Democrat members were on the original march when the Gurkhas handed back their medals and Liberal Democrat members have always supported their campaign.

Many signed their petition and Elvie Lowe has met many of them both at conferences and in Folkestone at social events and by-elections there.

The Liberal Democrats, in both Houses of Parliament, intend to offer unwavering support for the Immigration (Discharged Gurkhas) Bill and are committed to changing the current immigration rules that unfairly prejudice Gurkhas who retired from the

British Army before 1997.

The Liberal Democrats believe that all retired Gurkhas who have fought on behalf of this country should be given indefinite leave to enter and remain in the UK.

We believe they are entitled to this right and should be treated in the same way as their UK and Commonwealth counterparts.

Gurkhas who retired before 1997, should not be discriminated against based on an arbitrary date and be forced to apply to stay in the UK which may result in refusal and possible deportation.

This is no way to treat soldiers who were willing to sacrifice their lives for our country, by fighting in our interests. The current immigration rules are an insult to them.

Hopefully, given the recent High Court ruling on September 30, 2008, that declared the current treatment of Gurkhas who retired before 1997, as unlawful in terms of the right to live in the UK, the Government will be spurred to support our proposals for a change to the immigration rules regarding Gurkhas. Until the Government change the current immigration rules, the Liberal Democrats will continue to campaign on behalf of the Gurkhas so that they receive the treatment and respect they deserve.

David Spurling

*Vice-chairman
Sittingbourne and Sheppey
Liberal Democrats*

College right on song

At the recent scrutiny meeting on the future of Chatham Education, we were invited by pupils at Medway Community College (MCC) to watch their production of Bugsy Malone.

We were extremely pleased to have gone along for a great night's entertainment, with fantastic energy and effort from performers, musicians and all the backstage team.

It is no surprise that music is being discussed as a possible specialism for the new Chatham school as clearly there is a lot of talent already at MCC.

Congratulations to all involved.

*Cllrs Dorte Gibry and Vince Maple
Medway Labour Group*

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A PROMISING young photographer has been named one of the UK's best at an awards ceremony.

Saana Elina Kytomaki was the University for the Creative Arts' winner at the annual Discovery Awards, which took place at Olympia, in London, on Sunday.

The university is based in Rochester. Competition judge and British Journal of Photography editor Simon Bainbridge said: "We were very impressed with the standard of work this year and the positive response to the competition."

"Congratulations to Saana for an outstanding piece of work."

Gallery hosts college work

ART created by students at West Kent College has gone on display at Maidstone museum's Bentrif gallery.

The exhibition features work from 16 fine art students who were asked to use the museum's own collection as inspiration.

A spokesman said: "This is a great opportunity for visitors to explore the talent grown at the college, as well as the students' exciting and innovative artwork."

Culture clash

THE clash between religion and science is the theme of a new course at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Interested parties are invited to attend an introductory session on Wednesday, January 21, from 7-9pm.

The course will run for six weeks.

'The ideal route into teaching profession'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A TRAINING scheme aimed at boosting the number of teachers in Kent has been hailed a success.

The collaboration between Canterbury Christ Church University and schools in Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, West Malling and Sevenoaks has led to a new batch of teachers.

Pam Johnson, the university's senior lecturer of postgraduate initial teacher education, said the Graduate Teacher Programme, which is different from the usual Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE), had become an increasingly popular route into the profession.

The programme is different because the schools rather than the university are the main providers of training.

Ms Johnson said: "The trainees work alongside experienced colleagues, observing good practice, engaging in professional dialogue, meeting with subject leaders and senior managers, attending training sessions, planning, delivering and evaluating lessons and participating in the full life of the school."

Fine art graduate Reem Acason, 29, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, completed the programme and is now a qualified art teacher at Bennett Memorial School in Tunbridge Wells.

The mother-of-four said: "When I first started the programme, I must admit I found it extremely hard. However, now that I have qualified I feel so proud of myself and am delighted with my new career."

"The programme gives you a very realistic view of teaching and prepares you for the nitty gritty of it. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I would recommend it."

Ms Johnson said trainees on the programme were monitored through regular visits by lecturers from the university.



NEW TEACHERS: (Front, from left) Hollie Jenkins, Kelly Coleman, Veronique Lacourt-Ricks; (back, from left) Reem Acason, Sam Dwyer and Louise Pettifer all took part in the scheme

turers from the university.

"The programme has been a huge success," she said. "More than 40 per cent of our trainees took up employment in their training school with a further 30 per cent employed in other schools in the South East."

Veronique Lacourt-Ricks, 41, from Tonbridge, originally had a career in advertising and as a translator. She has a degree in international trade and a masters in bilingual translations.

After completing the course, she is now a fully qualified French and German teacher at Tonbridge Grammar School.

"This programme fitted around my life," she said. "It was extremely intense and busy, but I truly believe this is the ideal route into the profession."

"Training full-time at a school is the best way to learn as you see what happens from day one and it best prepares you for the reality of teaching. I thoroughly enjoy working with the children and it gives me great pleasure to help them learn."

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Photographic art in a can

EMPTY paint tins were transformed into working cameras by talented children at Folkestone Academy.

The second-year pupils were taught how by the University of Kent's artist-in-residence Annie Halliday, who led a month-long series of workshops. Next up for the young scientists is a three-week course on Lego robotics programming.

The academy's head of science Dr Davina Liard said: "The children are loving every minute and have all volunteered to come on this workshop."

"I hope it has encouraged many of them to consider carrying on with science as an option next year."





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required for busy test equipment, recalibration & repair company. Knowledge of electronic test equipment would be preferred.

Competitive salary depending on experience, plus bonus.

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Security Patrol / Supervisor Required.

36 Hours Per Week includes some nights and weekends. SIA Licence is essential and full UK driving licence. Must be flexible with experience in security supervision.

Call **01233 650160** for an application form

4 x Service Managers Psychological Therapies in Primary Care

£31,551 - £40,440 PRO-RATA

BASED EITHER KENT OR EAST SURREY • PART TIME (18.75 HOURS) POSTS

Can you lead and inspire a successful service undergoing unprecedented expansion and challenge?

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. As a result of significant development successes, we are recruiting for four new Service Managers, based across Kent and East Surrey.

You will be responsible for the day to day delivery of primary care mental health services in your area, focused on ensuring that the targets set by commissioners are achieved. You will work closely with commissioning teams, line manage psychological therapists and develop and manage partnerships with other agencies.

There is an opportunity to take on clinical work in addition to your management responsibilities, this could be for one or two days a week making the role either four days a week or full time.

You will need experience of delivering or managing brief psychological therapies and a relevant qualification at diploma or degree level. A strong commitment to evidence based practice is vital and experience of quality assurance systems relevant to primary care/therapy (e.g. CORE) would be an advantage. You will need to be self-motivated, innovative, able to inspire your team and possess empathy balanced with the ability to achieve goals.

For an informal discussion, please contact Sam Downie, Assistant Director at sdownie@kca.org.uk

An application form and job description can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, you can write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference: 538

Closing date: 5pm, 2 January 2009.

Interview date: 14 January 2009.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



www.redeagle.jobs



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GREAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATIVES WITH KOS MEDIA

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Would you like to join our concept creative team?

We are looking for creative thinkers who can develop copy and concept ideas through to on-screen design. Ideally you will be able to illustrate/scamp out a full brief and idea for potential advertisers and liaise with our other graphic designers or even turn it into a finished on-screen advert.

It will be an advantage to have a good background in copy writing, headlines and marketing skills as well as the ability to understand call-to-action and unique tagline messages. Knowledge of QuarkXPress, Photoshop, Illustrator or Indesign would also be an advantage.

All applicants should include an illustration/scamp of any advert from any local paper, illustrating how this advert could stand out or be portrayed in a way that talks more to its potential consumer than the original advert in the local paper.

We have been recognised nationally for award winning advertising campaigns for our clients, so if you want to be a part of our dynamic creative team in print or online, please send in your CV with a covering letter and your illustration/scamp advert idea to: Paul Stannard, Managing Director, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR or email paul.stannard@kosmedia.co.uk



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DOVER COLLEGE

Co-educational Day and Boarding School

**Required as soon as possible
Individual Needs Tutor
Infant & Junior Department**

Salary Scale £19,060 - £19,976
(dependent on qualifications and experience)

0.4 fte - ability to be flexible desirable
1:1 tuition

Recognised Dyslexia/SpLD qualification

Applications, with full CV's, a letter of introduction and details of two referees should be sent to:

The Headmaster, Dover College, Effingham Crescent,
Dover, Kent. CT17 9RH

Closing Date for Applications 9th January 2009

Tel: 01304 205969 ext. 201

Email: headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk or
hm.pa@dovercollege.org.uk www.dovercollege.org.uk

Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Dover College: Registered Charity Number 307856



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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Electrical Maintenance Technician

Salary: £15,057 - £18,534

Ref: P0070

The successful candidate will assist the Maintenance Manager in the maintenance and repair of electrical systems and carry-out testing, servicing and minor works, including replacement of electrical installations, fire and lighting systems. The applicant will be a qualified electrician and conversant with the 16th and/or 17th Edition Wiring Regulations.

Lecturer in Travel & Tourism

(Part-time 33 hours per week) Salary: £25,092 - £28,719 pro-rata

Ref: P0543

An opportunity has arisen for a Lecturer in Travel & Tourism. The main purpose of the role is to deliver and teach on a range of Travel and Tourism courses. You must have a relevant degree, ideally in Tourism and will have or be willing to work towards an appropriate teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.

Lecturer in Plumbing

Salary: £25,092 - £32,898 (depending on skills and experience)

Ref: P0231

The ideal candidate will have current knowledge and experience of the Building Services Industry and have a relevant trade qualification in plumbing. The successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Sport

£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

Ref: SES01

We are looking to recruit an hourly paid Lecturer for Sport to prepare, deliver, assess and teach on a range of courses, including BTEC National in Sports Science. The applicant will have a Sports Science or Sports related degree and be able to coach on a range of sporting activities.

Hourly Paid Lecturers/Reviewing Officer/Assessors

£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

Ref: SES02

We are looking to recruit hourly paid Gas Trainers, Gas Assessors and Reviewing Officers/Assessors for Engineering and Welding and Lecturers in Plumbing and Mechanical Engineering. The successful candidates will have current knowledge and experience in their specialist field and a relevant trade qualification.

Aim-Higher Co-ordinator

(Maternity Cover - 30 hours per week, term-time) Salary: £17,861 - £22,907 pro-rata

Ref: MPR01

The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities which will increase aspiration and awareness of opportunities in Higher Education and progression routes amongst learners currently enrolled at MidKent College and to lead in the support offered to learners with their applications into HE through the UCAS process.

Closing date: Friday, 16 January 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBL Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBL, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBL on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbl.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



CAREERS IN HEALTH CARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Your Skills Our Vision



Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Sheerness to Dungeness, Ashford to Ramsgate, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS – and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and well-being for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts.

Why not join us?

STAFF BENEFITS PACKAGE

- Final salary pension scheme
- Occupational sickness benefit
- Lease car scheme for eligible staff
- Occupational health service
- Childcare
- Enhanced maternity pay
- Enhanced paternity pay
- Enhanced adoption pay
- Flexible Working Policies
- Extensive Training Programs
- Long service awards
- In-house discounts & external benefits

SELECTION OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMIN AND CLERICAL / DOMESTIC SERVICES

Administrative Assistant

Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 25
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Ref: 767-EIC711
Closing date: 26/12/08

Lifelong Learning Advisor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Ashford
Ref: 767-ECC695
Closing date: 02/01/09

Team Secretary

Salary: £14,834 - £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 20
Location: Dover
Ref: 767-ECC696
Closing date: 07/01/09

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REGISTERED

Tissue Viability Nurse X 2

Salary: £37,106 - £44,527 pa
Band: 8a
Hours: 37.5
Location: Folkestone
Ref: 767-EIC698
Closing date: 29/12/08

Stroke Specialist Nurse X 2

Salary: £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable
Ref: 767-EIC699
Closing date: 29/12/08

Community Children's Nurse

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Children's Assessment Centre, Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Ref: 767-ECC655
Closing date: 31/12/08

Community Children's Nurse - Clinical Deputy

Salary: £37,106 to £44,527 pa
Band: 8a
Hours: 37.5
Location: Children's Assessment Centre, Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Ref: 767-ECC656
Closing date: 31/12/08

Staff Nurse

Salary: £20,225 - £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable & Tankerton Hospital
Ref: 767-EIC710
Closing date: 04/01/09

Public Health Screening Nurse x 2

Salary: £24,103 - £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 22.5
Location: Dover
Ref: 767-ECC688
Closing date: 05/01/09

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Health Promotion Practitioner

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitfield Court, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC690
Closing date: 31/12/08

Health Promotion Practitioner

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitfield Court, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC691
Closing date: 31/12/08

Occupational Therapist

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Cairn Ryan, Dover
Ref: 767-ASH245
Closing date: 05/01/09

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Herne Bay
Ref: 767-ECC721
Closing date: 02/01/09

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Swale, Kent
Ref: 767-ECC713
Closing date: 02/01/09

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable Health Centre
Ref: 767-ECC722
Closing date: 02/01/09

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 30
Location: Ramsgate, Kent
Ref: 767-ECC720
Closing date: 02/01/09

Healthcare Assistant

Salary: £14,834 - £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 18
Location: Various Sites across East Kent
Ref: 767-EIC707
Closing date: 02/01/09

Healthcare Assistant

Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable & Tankerton Hospital
Ref: 767-EIC709
Closing date: 04/01/09

Career Opportunities

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer



Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Supply Learning Support staff required in the following areas: Ref SH/LS

- Beauty
- Hair
- Cache
- Skills for Working Life
- Administration
- Finance
- ICT
- Public Services
- Construction

Various hours available, salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

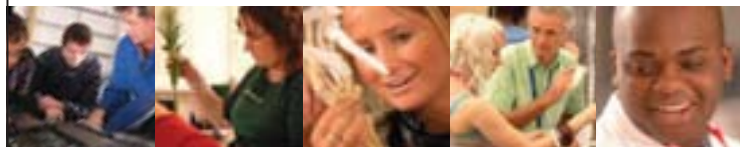
Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to Town Centre

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 12th January 2009 at 12 noon.

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



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Career Opportunities

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer



Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Section Manager Construction Craft | 08/12 |
| 37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum | |
| Section Manager Dental Nursing, Social Care and Counselling | 06/110 |
| 37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum | |
| Coordinator Mathematics | 08/61 |
| 37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum | |
| Lecturer Media in Interactive Media | 04/64 |
| 18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum | |
| Pre 16 Tutor | 07/12 |
| 37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum
Fixed term post ending 31 August 2010 | |
| Lecturer Computing and IT | L24 |
| 37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum.
Fixed term post ending 31 December 2012 | |
| Lecturer Public Services | 06/92 & 08/145 |
| 2 x posts - 37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. | |
| Supply Lecturers to teach Learning Support and Teaching Assistants | SI/HE/LS |
| Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum | |

Skills for Life Initial Assessor **08/154**
18.5 hours per week, salary starting £15,085 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 12th January 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



SELLINDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
VACANCY
FULL TIME SCHOOL SECRETARY

Required for January 2009
Kent Pay Scheme Band 5
40 weeks a year 8:30 – 4:00

For details please contact: Miss Baxter
Sellindge Primary School,
Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6JY
Tel: 01303-812073
Email: headteacher@sellindge-ashford.kent.sch.uk

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in this section

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Senior Economic Policy Officer

Thames Gateway Kent Partnership (TGKP) • £40,000 + Benefits

If you've proven economic analysis skills and a creative approach, this is your chance to play a central role in the growth of Thames Gateway - Europe's biggest regeneration project.

For further details on this position please see the full advert on <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk> or contact Human Resources, Tel (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference 300TG3.
E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk

Closing date: 29 Dec 2008 Interviews: expected to be held in Jan 2009

Folkstone, Marlowe and Spires Academies Clerk to the Governors/Project Officer

Are you a good organiser, able to bring people together and make things happen?
Do you enjoy the challenge of finding out new information and compiling interesting and relevant reports?
Would you like to be at the cutting edge of educational change?

We are looking for someone who can combine the role of Clerk to the Governors for our three academies with a project officer role in supporting the development of our all age academy programme. This is the ideal job for an agile minded individual who enjoys the challenge of a varied range of responsibilities, working as part of a small Folkstone-based team.

Based in Folkstone Academy, you will be expected to travel to Canterbury and Ramsgate and be ready to adapt to a range of tasks.

- Start date: February or March 2009
- Salary £24,000 pa + benefits

For an informal discussion please contact Gabrielle Wilson on 01303 212048

Application packs can be obtained from www.folkstoneacademy.com

Closing date for applications: 9th January 2009



TRAINING ASSISTANT FOR BILINGUAL LEARNERS REQUIRED

Hours: Term-time only (38 weeks), temporary post until 31st March 2010
Salary: Kent Scheme 5 (£16,627 - £18,288 pro rata per annum)

You will work in both primary and secondary schools supporting pupils for whom English is an additional language, and working together with mainstream staff in order to raise the achievement of bilingual and ethnic minority pupils.

You should have an understanding of initiatives for supporting children and young people in the most effective and appropriate way. You will need an understanding of the Foundation Stage, National Curriculum and current educational initiatives, as well as a qualification in learning support and evidence of Continuing Professional Development.

You will be willing to travel in order to visit schools and there will be a mileage allowance payable. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau for which the employer will pay.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road,
Folkstone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date: Friday 2nd January 2009
Interviews: Week beginning 5th January 2009

achievement for all

northfleet technology college

Colyer Road
Northfleet, Gravesend
Kent DA11 8BG

Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following:

Trainee placement on the following Graduate Teacher Programmes
Maths – Design Technology

The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in their chosen subject. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently. Salary will be £15,113.

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylor@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date is **Wednesday 31st December 2008**



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A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Experienced Accounts Assistant

Dartford

Salary: TBA
You must have experience within an accountancy practice - we offer a study package, if required, and a competitive salary. All applicants must be able to drive due to location of offices. Please send a CV and salary expectations to: Mr M Kayes Riddington & Riddington The Lodge Darenth Hill Darenth Kent DA2 7QR.

To apply/more information: Mr M Kayes Riddington & Riddington Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Email: mike@riddingtons.co.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

ADMINISTRATOR

Dartford

Salary: £13,000 to £17,000 per annum
Regent Development Ltd is a Chartered Building Company acting as a service provider to most major insurance companies for Domestic insurance claims. We have just won another new contract which is due to commence in the New Year. We are therefore looking for another Administrator to enhance our very busy team. Work will involve booking in new jobs/scheduling materials and operatives, organising start dates and providing a comprehensive customer service to all Clients. On the job training will be supplied, however, Computer literacy is a must in Excel/Word and Outlook as is the ability to work on your own initiative once training is complete. A knowledge of Sage would be advantageous. The Company offers a salary between £13,000 to £17,000 per annum dependant upon experience/28 day holiday (including Bank Holidays)/bonus system/free Healthcare upon completion of 12 months employment. CV's to: pat.slater@regentgroup.co.uk Tel: 01322 626240.

To apply/more information: Regent Development Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 626240
Email: pat.slater@regentgroup.co.uk

Receptionist

Hythe

Salary: TBA
Required for busy doctor's surgery to cover 2 evenings and 3 mornings, 20 hours per week. Must be flexible, keyboard skills an advantage but not essential. Please apply in writing with CV to Mrs Jill Blackman Practice Manager Sun Lane Surgery 5 Sun Lane Hythe Kent CT21 5JX
To apply/more information: Mrs Jill Blackman
Sun Lane Surgery
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School



To learn about teaching careers in Kent, visit
www.kent-teach.com

Aim-Higher Co-ordinator

Medway

Salary: £17,861 - £22,907 pro-rata

Closing Date: Friday 16 January 2009

Maternity Cover - 30 hours per week, term-time. The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities which will increase aspiration and awareness of opportunities in Higher Education and progression routes amongst learners currently enrolled at MidKent College and to lead in the support offered to learners with their applications into HE through the UCAS process. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk.

Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer.

To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: MPR01
Tel: 01634 884402
Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Clerk to the Governors/Project Officer

Folkestone

Salary: £24,000 pa + benefits
Closing Date: 9th January 2009
Folkestone, Marlowe and Spire Academies require a Clerk to the Governors/Project Officer. Are you a good organiser, able to bring people together and make things happen? Do you enjoy the challenge of finding out new information and compiling interesting and relevant reports? Would you like to be at the cutting edge of educational change? We are looking for someone who can combine the role of Clerk to the Governors for our three academies with a project officer role in supporting the development of our all age academy programme. This is the ideal job for an agile minded individual who enjoys the challenge of a varied range of responsibilities, working as part of a small Folkestone-based team. Based in Folkestone Academy, you will be expected to travel to Canterbury and Ramsgate and be ready to adapt to a range of tasks.

Start date: February or March 2009 • **Salary:** £24,000 pa + benefits. For an informal discussion please contact Gabrielle Wilson on 01303 212048. Application packs can be obtained from www.folkestoneacademy.com
To apply/more information: Gabrielle Wilson
Marlowe Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 212048
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Coordinator Animal Care and Land Based Studies

Canterbury

Salary: £27,209 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/61
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/156
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Finding staff
24-7
JobsforKent.co.uk

To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Coordinator Fabrication and Welding

Canterbury

Salary: £27,209 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
18.5 hours per week

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/157
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Coordinator Mathematics

Canterbury

Salary: £27,209 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 January 2009 at Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/157
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Coordinator of Work Based Learning and other Part-time Motor Vehicle Programmes

Canterbury

Salary: £27,209 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
Including IMI ATA 37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: C0106
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Curriculum Support Assistant - Engineering and Construction

Canterbury

Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
37 hours per week, 40 weeks term time. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/157
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Curriculum Support Assistant - Health, Public Services and Care

Canterbury

Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
2 x 18.5 and 1 x 37 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/157
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/131
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Database and Reporting Team Administrator

Canterbury

Salary: £18,9
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: DBRA2
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Sport

Medway

Salary: £19.74 to £28.28 per hour
Closing Date: Friday 16 January 2009
Pay includes holiday component. We are looking to recruit an hourly paid Lecturer for Sport to prepare, deliver, assess and teach on a range of courses, including BTEC National in Sports Science. The applicant will have a Sports Science or Sports related degree and be able to coach on a range of sporting activities. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer.

To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: SES01
Tel: 01634 884402
Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Hourly Paid Lecturers/ Reviewing Officer/ Assessors

Medway

Salary: £19.74 to £28.28 per hour
Closing Date: Friday 16 January 2009
Pay includes holiday component. We are looking to recruit hourly paid Gas Trainers, Gas Assessors and Reviewing Officers/Assessors for Engineering and Welding and Lecturers in Plumbing and Mechanical Engineering. The successful candidates will have

current knowledge and experience in their specialist field and a relevant trade qualification. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer.

To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: SES02
Tel: 01634 884402
Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Individual Needs Tutor

Dover

Salary: £19,060 - £19,976
Closing Date: 9th January 2009
Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. 0.4 fte - ability to be flexible desirable, 1:1 tuition. Recognised Dyslexia/SpLD qualification Applications, with full CV's, a letter of introduction and details of two referees should be sent to: The Headmaster, Dover College, Effingham Crescent, Dover, Kent. CT17 9RH Tel: 01304 205969 ext. 201 Email: headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk or h.m.pa@dovercollege.org.uk
www.dovercollege.org.uk
Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

To apply/more information: Dover College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 205969 ext 201
Email: hm.pa@dovercollege.org.uk

Labourer - Wood Work Shop

Canterbury

Salary: £15,085 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: RA4
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Learning Resources Assistant

Canterbury

Salary: £15,085
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: RA4
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: LRA1
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Computing and IT

Canterbury

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 12 January 2009 at Noon
37 hours per week. Fixed post ending 31 December 2012. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: L24
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Lecturer Fabrication and Welding

Canterbury

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
18.5 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: P0231
Tel: 01634 884402
Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 01/103
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer HE Building Surveying

Canterbury

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
9.25 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/28
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer in Plumbing

Medway

Salary: £25,092 - £32,898
Closing Date: Friday 16 January 2009
The ideal candidate will have current knowledge and experience of the Building Services Industry and have a relevant trade qualification in plumbing. The successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer.

To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0231
Tel: 01634 884402
Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Travel and Tourism

Medway

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719 pro-rata
Closing Date: Friday 16 January 2009
An opportunity has arisen for a Lecturer in Travel & Tourism. The main purpose of the role is to deliver and teach on a range of Travel and Tourism courses. You must have a relevant degree, ideally in Tourism and will have or be willing to work towards an appropriate teaching qualification within a specified timeframe. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer.



Dining Date: Monday
December 2 at 12 noon

37 hours per week Canterbury College is a further and Higher Education institution in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the reference. Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance
- Staff Discount on Interim Bus
- Train stations: Ouse to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme



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To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: TD4
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator - Wood Occupations

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pa
Closing Date: Monday 22 December at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 04/148
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Training Assistant for Bilingual Learners

Folkestone
Salary: £16,627 - £21,288 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 2 January 2009
Term-time only (38 weeks), temporary post until 31st March 2010. You will work in both primary and secondary schools supporting pupils for whom English is an additional language, and working together with mainstream staff in order to raise the achievement of bilingual and ethnic minority pupils. You should have an understanding if initiatives for supporting children and young people in the most effective and appropriate way. You will need an understanding of the Foundation Stage, National Curriculum and current educational initiatives, as well as a qualification in learning support and evidence of Continuing Professional Development. You will be willing to travel in order to visit schools and there will be a mileage allowance payable. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau for which the employer will pay. For more information and an application form please contact: Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4ED. Email or call on 01303 277161 ext 2218.

To apply/more information:
Miss S Spratley
Pent Valley Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161
Email samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Electrical Maintenance Technician

Medway
Salary: £15,057 - £18,534
Closing Date: Friday 16 January 2009
The successful candidate will assist the Maintenance Manager

in the maintenance and repair of electrical systems and carry-out testing, servicing and minor works, including replacement of electrical installations, fire and lighting systems. The applicant will be a qualified electrician and conversant with the 16th and/or 17th Edition Wiring Regulations. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer.

To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: PO070
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Graduate, Trainees

Graduate Teacher Programmes Maths and Design Technology

Gravesend
Salary: £15,113 pa
Closing Date: Wednesday 21st December 2008
In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following: Trainee placement on the following Graduate Teacher Programmes: Maths & Design Technology
The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University. The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in their chosen subject. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently. This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees. We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details. An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylor@mtc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk.

To apply/more information:
Mrs Gill Taylor
Northfleet Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 533802
Email taylor@mtc.kent.sch.uk

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

Security Patrol / Supervisor
Ashford

Salary: TBA
36 Hours Per Week includes some nights and weekends. SIA Licence is essential and full UK driving licence. Must be flexible with experience in security supervision. Call 01233 650160 for an application form.

To apply/more information:
Swift Security Services Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 650160
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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Management, Senior Positions

Service Managers x 4 Psychological Therapies in Primary Care

Kent
Salary: £31,551 - £40,440 pro rata
Closing Date: 2 January 2009, 5pm
Based either in Kent or East Surrey, 18.75 hours per week. Can you lead and inspire a successful service undergoing unprecedented expansion and challenge? KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. As a result of significant development successes, we are recruiting for four new Service Managers, based across Kent and East Surrey. You will be responsible for the day to day delivery of primary care mental health services in your area, focused on ensuring that the targets set by commissioners are achieved. You will work closely with commissioning teams, line manage psychological therapists and develop and manage partnerships with other agencies. There is an opportunity to take clinical work in addition to your management responsibilities, this could be for one or two days a week making the role either four days a week or full time. You will need experience of delivering or managing brief psychological therapies and a relevant qualification at diploma or degree level. A strong commitment to evidence based practice is vital and experience of quality assurance systems relevant to primary care/therapy (e.g CORE) would be an advantage. You will need to be self-motivated, innovative, able to inspire your team and possess empathy balanced with the ability to achieve goals. For an informal discussion, please contact Sam Downie, Assistant Director at sdownie@kca.org.uk. An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies or email us. Alternatively, you can write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8AT quoting the reference 538.

To apply/more information:
Sam Downie
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 538
Tel: 01795 590635
Email sdownie@kca.org.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Taxi Drivers

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Full & part time taxi drivers required. www.a2cabs.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Elaine
A2 Cabs Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 431500
Email elaine@a2cabs.co.uk

Vehicle Technician/ MOT Tester

Ashford
Salary: NEG
We now require additional skilled Vehicle Technician's. Applicants should be experienced in all aspects of service and repair of cars and light commercial vehicles and must be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of vehicle systems and diagnosis. You will preferably be qualified to C & G level or equivalent. MOT Class IV, VII, and VI light preferred but not essential. Experience in operation of Snap-on MODIS, air conditioning and engine rebuild work, an advantage. You will need to display a high level of initiative and professionalism in your work and appearance, and demonstrate good verbal and written communication skills at all times. Good time keeping is essential. 21 days annual holiday plus public and bank holidays. An excellent remuneration package awaits the right candidate. Health plan available.

To apply/more information:
Gary Stewart
Riverside Garage Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kostech
Tel: 01233 665007
Email
service@riversidegarage.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Handyman/Driver

Sidcup
Salary: TBA
We look after people with Learning Disabilities and whom may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the above post. If you have a passion for the role and the experience, call John Parker now! CRB checks necessary. Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES.

To apply/more information:
John Parker
Oakfields Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 3029302
Email loring@oakfields.net

Senior Support Workers

Sidcup
Salary: TBA
We look after people with Learning Difficulties and whom may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the above position. If you have a passion for the role and the experience, call John Parker now. CRB checks necessary. Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES.

To apply/more information:
John Parker
Oakfields Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 3029302
Email loring@oakfields.net

Support Workers

Sidcup
Salary: TBA
We look after people with Learning Disabilities and whom may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the above post.

CONFINES OF THE POST AND ORGANISATION) IN NEGOTIATION WITH THE EMPLOYEE AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST DICTATES. Disabled Applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance.

To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843-224882
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Waking Night Staff

Sidcup
Salary: TBA
We look after people with Learning Disabilities and whom may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the above post. If you have a passion for the role and the experience, call John Parker now! CRB checks necessary. Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES.

To apply/more information:
John Parker
Oakfields Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 3029302
Email loring@oakfields.net

Public Sector, Social Services

Senior Economic Policy Officer

Sittingbourne
Salary: £40,000 + Benefits
Closing Date: 29 December 2008
Thames Gateway Kent Partnership. If you've proven economic analysis skills and a creative approach, this is your chance to play a central role in the growth of Thames Gateway - Europe's biggest regeneration project. For further details on this position please see the full advert on <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk> or contact Human Resources, Tel 01795 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting the reference.

To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: 300TG3

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- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission within our marketing. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through failure in forwarding replies to box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publication.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential losses caused by the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation of a discount, KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card effective July 2008-June 2009 and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met & paid by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. Should the advertiser's standard of commercial should for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production by the advertiser. Should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement, the advertiser will agree to be charged by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd for the value of the TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc.) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- The credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
- In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
- In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
- Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- For an order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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Highways - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Etchden Road, Great Chart) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Etchden Road, Great Chart between the junctions of Park Lane and Bears Lane, on 5 January 2009, for an estimated period of one week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Park Lane, Vitters Oak Lane and Goldwell Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Highbury Lane, Tenterden) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of repairs to a drainage channel at the side of the road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Highbury Lane, Tenterden, on or after 5 January 2009, for an estimated period of three weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via High Street and Bridewell Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Pot Kiln Lane, Bethersden) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works for the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pot Kiln Lane, Bethersden between the junctions with Green Lane and Bull Lane, on or after 5 January 2009, for an estimated period of two weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bull Lane, A28 Ashford Road, A266 Biddenden Road, A262 Tenterden Road and High Halden Road, Biddenden.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Station Road, Bekesbourne) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because drainage works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Bekesbourne, between the junctions with School Lane and Cranmer Close, on or after 5 January 2009, for an estimated period of 12 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne Road, St Martin's Hill, Longport, Lower Chantry Lane, New Dover Road, Az on / off slip and Bifrons Hill

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Nelson Road, Whitstable) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Nelson Road, Whitstable from its junction with Oxford Street to its junction with Island Wall on or after 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of fourteen weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
Nelson Road, Whitstable	Entire length	Eastbound traffic to use Island Wall, Waterloo Road and Middle Wall. Westbound traffic to use Oxford Street, High Street, and Island Wall.

This order will come into force on Monday 5 January 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Castle Street, Canterbury) (ONE WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order to make Castle Street, Canterbury one way from Rosemary Lane to its junction with Watling Street in a north easterly direction on or after 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of nine weeks or until such works are complete.

This order will come into force on Monday 5 January 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(Northgate, Canterbury) (ONE WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order to make Northgate, Canterbury one way in a south westerly direction from Union Street to its junction with Broad Street on or after 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of nine weeks or until such works are complete.

This order will come into force on Monday 5 January 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

The alternative route for traffic travelling in a north easterly direction will be via Broad Street, Military Road and Tourtel Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Tower Hill Area, Whitstable) (EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2008

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council has made the above named Order under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order, which will be in force for a maximum experimental period of 18 months, will:

- Make Tower Hill one way north bound and east bound from its junction with Tower Parade to its junction with Park Avenue.
- Introduce a 7.5t weight limit, except for loading on the following lengths of road:

Tower Hill	entire length
Marine Parade	between its junctions with Tower Hill and St Anne's Road
Park Avenue	between its junctions with Marine Parade and Tankerton Road
Cliff Road	entire length
- Introduce parking bays on the seaward side of Tower Hill

This Order was made on 19 December 2008 and will come into force on 5 January 2009

The Kent County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of this experimental Order should continue in force indefinitely.

Any alterations to this Order which will render it less restrictive may be authorised by the Head of Transport and Development, without the requirement to re-advertise the Order, under section 10(2) of the said Act, and after consultation with the chief officer of police.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, may be examined at the offices of the Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD; Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury; and Whitstable Divisional Office, Harbour Street, Whitstable.

Within the period of 6 months of the coming into force of the Experimental Traffic Order any person may object to this Order prior to making the Order permanent. If you wish to object to the Experimental Order you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to the Transportation Manager, Canterbury City Council, Military Road Canterbury CT1 1YW or by email to transportation@canterbury.gov.uk by noon on 1 July 2009.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SHEPHERDS LANE, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Shepherds Lane, Dartford at its junction with Princes Road.

The Order will become effective on 5th January 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take place as 2 closures for 4hrs in the next three months after the effective date. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the route described above will be via: Shepherds Lane, Dartford Road, Princes Road or Princes Road, Heath Lane, Oakfield Lane, Old Bexley Lane, Shepherds Lane

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate junction improvement works.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(Park Street, Deal) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because BT ducting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Park Street, Deal from its junction with West Street to its junction with High Street on or after 7 January 2009 for an estimated period of 1 day or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via West Street and Stanhope Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(Warren Lane, Lydden) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because water mains reinforcement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Warren Lane, Lydden from its junction with Belsey Lane for approximately 900m north to Little London on or after 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of 12 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road, Swanton Lane, The Street, Holloway Lane, Little Everden Road, Chalksole Green Lane and Warren Lane.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PRIESTWOOD ROAD, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Priestwood Road, Meopham between its junctions with Horns Oak Road and Chandlers Road.

The Order will become effective on 5th January 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take a total of 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Chandlers Hill
The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Ducting Works on behalf of BT.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PEACOCK STREET & WELLINGTON STREET, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Peacock Street, Gravesend and Wellington Street, Gravesend for their entire lengths.

The Order will become effective on 5th January 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take a total of three weeks in the next three months after the effective date. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via: Peacock Street: Saddington Street, Parrock Street and Milton Road. Wellington Street: Milton Road, The Grove and Saddington Street.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Highway Improvement Works.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

HORTON ROAD & NEW ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Horton Road, South Darenth between its junctions with East Hill and Station Road, and on New Road, South Darenth for a distance of 20m from its junction with Horton Road. This Order will also temporarily remove the width restriction on Cedar Drive for the duration of the works.

The Order will become effective on 5th January 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take a total of 12 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via:

Horton Road: Station Road, Cedar Drive, Devon Road then; Vehicles below 7.5t East Hill and Vehicles greater than 7.5t Holmesdale Road and Paddock Close.
New Road: East Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate various restoration, demolition and construction works for new residential buildings.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

BASING LANE, COWDEN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Basing Lane, Cowden for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 5th January 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Shepherds Grove Lane, Hoyte Hill, A264 Holtye Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement of BT Poles

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

BRADBOURNE ROAD & ST JOHNS ROAD, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Bradbourne Road, Sevenoaks between its junction with A25 Bradbourne Vale Road to its junction with Bradbourne Park Road and on St Johns Road, Sevenoaks between its junction with Bradbourne Vale Road and number 71. These roads will be closed consecutively.

The Order will become effective on 5th January 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take 6 weeks on Bradbourne Road and 2 weeks on St Johns Road. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routed described above will be via:

Bradbourne Road - Bradbourne Vale Road, St Johns Road and Bradbourne Road

St Johns Road - Bradbourne Vale Road, Bradbourne Road and St Johns Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Gas Main laying works.

Highways - District of Shepway**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

(Stowting Hill, Lymbridge Green) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because water mains renewal works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Stowting Hill, Lymbridge Green from its junction with B2068 Stone Street southbound for approximately 770 metres to the property Yew Tree Farm on or after 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of 3 months working Saturday and Sunday only between the hours of 08:00am to 22:00pm or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Big Pett, Whatsole Street and Maxted Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A259 Dymchurch Road and A259 Hythe Road, Dymchurch) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because sea defence works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting all traffic travelling on the roads described column 1 of the Schedule hereto from any speed in excess of 30mph on the lengths of road specified in column 2 of the Schedule, on 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of 24 months. The order will be revoked once the works are complete.

SCHEDULE

Name of Road	Length of Road
A259 Dymchurch Road	120 metres North East from its junction with The Fairway northbound for 850 metres to the existing 30 mph limit.
A259 Hythe Road	175 metres North East from its junction with Tower Estate southbound for 750 metres to the existing 30 mph limit.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

**Highways - District of Swale****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

(Various Roads, Minster-on-Sea) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Minster-on-Sea, as described in columns 1 & 2 of this schedule, on or after 5 January 2009 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 4 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Back Lane, Minster-on-Sea	Between the junctions with Scooles Road and High Street	Eastbound via High Street and Back Lane Westbound via Baldwin Road, Queens Road, Wards Hill Road and The Broadway	5 January 2009 for up to three weeks.
Phase 2			
High Street/ Waterloo Hill	Whole length of each road	Eastbound via The Broadway, Wards Hill Road, Queens Road and Baldwin Road	From 26 January 2009 for up to three weeks.

Highways - Boroughs of Tonbridge & Malling & Sevenoaks**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

(POWDER MILL LANE & LEIGH ROAD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Powder Mill Lane and Leigh Road from the junction of Hildenborough Road to the junction of Stocks Green Road on or after Monday 5th January 2009 between 9:30 to 15:30 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Hildenborough Road, Stocks Green Road.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for service connection works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Tracy Zeal of Ashted Plant Hire Company Ltd on 01666 822000.

The Insolvency Rules 1986 SOUTH EAST TILES LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
I hereby give notice that we, Michael Bowell and Dermot Coadley of MBI Coadley Ltd, Second Floor, Tungate Square, 98-110 High Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3HE were appointed joint Liquidators of the above named company on 15 December 2008. All debts and claims should be sent to me at my address above.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to us. Please note that no further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated: 15 December 2008
Michael Bowell, Joint Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986 MAIL IT DIRECT LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Keith Barry Stout, of KSA, 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1EY was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 10th December 2008.
Keith Barry Stout, Liquidator

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

The Insolvency Act 1986 MAINSTREAM PRODUCTS LTD
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 1st day of December 2008, Keith Stout of 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1EY was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the members and creditors on 17 December 2008. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated: 10 December 2008
Keith Stout, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986 CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATING LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 03493950
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Ruth Ellen Duncan of Altherton Bails, LLP, Kent House, Romney Place, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6LH was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 12 December 2008.
R E Duncan, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986 CAPITAL CARE IAN MYNOTT LIMITED

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, G W Rhodes, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Beghies Traynor, 2/3 Pavilion Buildings, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1EE was appointed liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 17 December 2008. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated: 17 December 2008
G W Rhodes, Liquidator

ATLANTIC BUSINESS RESOURCES PLC

Company Number 05520364

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nexus House, 2 Clay Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, on 5 January 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Proxies to be used for the purposes of the above Meeting must be lodged, accompanied by statements of claim, at the registered office of the Company situated at Nexus House, 2 Clay Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the Meeting.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Andrew Tate and Nedim Ashan, of Abbott Fielding, Nexus House, 2 Clay Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated: 9 December 2008
By Order of the Board
Adrian Drewe, Chairman

SNILSGATEWAY CIC

Company Number 06364788

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, on 15 January 2009, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU not later than 12.00 noon on the business day preceding the meeting. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge a statement at the above address before the meeting, giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the above address, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated 5 December 2008
Terence Burton, Director

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS - NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/08/03619/FL - 2 Dutts Cottages Teston Road Offham West Malling Kent ME19 5NS - Mr William Beavins is applying for first floor rear extension. Reason: CA

TM/08/03510/FL - Land At Winterfield Estate Chapman Way East Malling West Malling Kent - Russel Homes Ltd are applying for demolition of 2no. garage blocks to create additional parking spaces, creation of new footpath link to London Road (A20), erection of new lighting columns and re-landscape central public open space. Reason: GPI

TM/08/03618/RM - Former Holborough Quarry And Adjoining Land Parcel Holborough Road Snodland Kent - Berkeley Homes (Kent) Ltd are applying for revised reserved matters for the private housing units in phase 4, incorporating change in house types, revised layout and details of external materials, refuse storage and contour and slab levels (Alternative to TM/07/02546/RM). Reason: HA
TM/08/03452/FL - Hedgehogs St Vincents Lane Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5BW - Jane Reader is applying for provision of a sand school measuring 40m x 20m. Reason: LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
GPI Application is of general Public Interest
HA Site is over 1ha.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk - click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 11 January 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
21 December 2008



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Hybrid power suits Lexus limo

By **RICHARD M HAMMOND**

FOR hardened ecologists, using a V8 as a compromise over a V12 is probably akin to choosing the guillotine as a compromise over the firing squad.

However, the hybrid Lexus LS600h has an engine that switches itself off when not required and a high torque electric motor to allow the big limo to pull away smoothly and quietly – unless you bury the throttle deep into the shag pile in an assassination-attempt-avoiding reverse-180 spin.

In the normal course of events though, it is unlikely that you'll ever get the opportunity to unchain the combined force of V8 petrol and electric engines on the gravel drive of a stateley home, the Heathrow road network or around Westminster.

The LS600h also does what it says on the tin on fuel consumption too by averaging some 30mpg – not bad for such a large car.

From the driver's seat you're very aware that you're driving a big car, but it's still an effortless experience.

DrivingStats

- Lexus LS600h LWB £83,655
- Engine: 5.0-litre petrol unit, 389bhp and 383lb/ft of torque, plus electric motor developing 221bhp and 221lb/ft of torque
- Transmission: eight-speed automatic transmission, driving all four wheels
- Performance: Maximum speed 155mph, 0-62mph 6.3 seconds
- CO2 emissions: 219g/km
- Economy: combined 30.4mpg

The sophisticated suspension can be firmed up if required, but the lengthened chassis is never going to offer the rigidity of a true sports car, despite sports performance. It's really all about cruising, which the LS600h turns into an art form.

And, although it's pleasure to drive, being driven in the model takes things to the next level.

The driver is given all of the equipment

needed to make chauffeuring as stress free as possible and in the rear the passengers are provided with everything they could need to make working, relaxing or entertaining themselves on the move possible.

Crafted wooden trays fold up, enormous DVD screens fold down. The passenger side seat folds flat like that of a first-class aeroplane and massages from shoulder to lower back.

Blinds pop out of the windows, soft-shut doors quietly pull themselves closed and four-zone air con wafts cool air through the plush leather on warm days.

Cars like the LS600h may be controversial, but it's a genuinely inspiring piece of engineering for car fans.

For those still keen to hate this opulent limousine though, I offer this crumb of consolation: if automotive engineers can produce a car as complicated but triumphant as the LS600h, yet make it look so simple, there's a good chance that they might just be smart enough to solve more pressing issues too, given enough encouragement.



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INSIDE



Alfa Romeo bonds with 007 Page 60



A Chevy of Epica proportions page 61



Renault Clio good as ever Pages 64-65



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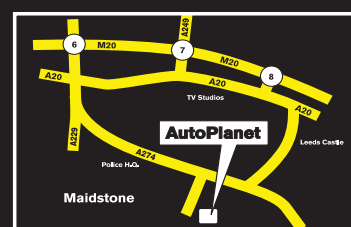
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C3

04 54 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Beige, 25,395m	£4,995
05 05 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Arctic Steel, 6,998m	£4,995
05 55 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Oriental Blue, 17,953m	£5,495
05 55 1.4i SX 5dr Hatch, Blue, 22,029m	£5,495
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08 08 1.6 HDi SX 5dr Grand Picasso, Arctic Steel, 10,000m	£12,495
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07 07 2.0i Grand Picasso Exclusive 5dr EGS Estate, Black, 21,000m	£13,995

C5

05 55 2.2 HDi 16v VTR Automatic Diesel Estate, Beige, 30,556m	£7,995
06 06 2.2 HDi 16v Exclusive Auto Diesel Hatch, Icelandic Grey, 10,197m	£8,995

07 57 2.2 HDi VTX 5dr Auto, Arctic Steel, 12,000m	£9,995
08 08 1.6 HDi 16v VTR Diesel Saloon, Deep Red, 10,000m	£12,995
08 08 2.0 HDi 16v VTR 5dr Diesel Tourer, Silver, 9,000m	£14,995

C8

07 56 2.0 HDi SX 5dr Diesel Estate, Red, 22,550m	£9,795
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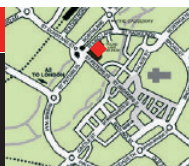
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by **STEVE LOADER**

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03 03	LEXUS IS 200 2.0 SPORT CROSS EST, 2 owners, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, immob, CD, hid seats, e/s/roof, 1/2 leather, alloys. In met blue	£6995
05 54	VOLVO V50 2.0 S GP EST, 1 owner, FSH, a/c, PAS, SPSS, r/c/locking, CD, hid seats, alloys. In met silver	£6695
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03 03	TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO 1.8 VVTI 1.3 MPV, 51K, FSH, a/c, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met green	£4495
02 52	RENAULT SCENIC 1.9 DCI RXT PRIVILEGE, 55K, FSH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, CD, e/windows, alloys. In met light green	£4495
03 03	Vauxhall Frontera 2.2 SPORT OLYMPIUS 3DR, 48K, FSH, a/c, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, detach hardtop, 1/2 leather, alloys, silver	£3995
02 52	ROVER 75 2.5 SE CONNOISSEUR AUTO EST, 1 owner, 37K, SH, a/c, cruise, immob, hid seats, CD, leather, alloys. In met gold	£3995
04 04	VW TIGUAN R 3.0 TDI R30, 2 owners, SH, a/c, PAS, immob, CD, e/s/r, roof rails, alloys. In met blue	£3995
03 52	DAEWOO TACUMA 2.0 GDX MPV, 1 owner, 52K, SH, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, roof rails, e/windows, alloys. In met blue	£2495

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04 04	MAZDA RX-8 2.3i GP COUPE, F34, 23K, immob, sat nav, e/seats, leather, alloys. In met black	£8995
03 53	MG ZR 1.8 VVC 3DR, 1 owner, 55K, FSH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, e/windows, leather, alloys. In met silver	£3695
04 04	MERCEDES C200 CDI SPORT COUPE 3DR, 1 owner, FSH, a/c, PAS, CD, cruise, immob, alloys. In met green	£8695
04 54	SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX SL 4DR, 50K, alarm, PRO-DRIVE PACK, hid seats, climate, tracker, leather, alloys. In met red	£8495
04 04	MAZDA MX-5 1.8 S-VT SPORT CONVERTIBLE, 1 owner, 12K, FSH, a/c, PAS, CD, r/c/locking, immob, e/wins, leather, alloys. In black	£7495
03 53	JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE AUTO, FSH, a/c, cruise, e/s/roof, rain sensor, immob, leather, alloys. In met blue	£6995
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00 W	JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE AUTO, FSH, climate, e/s/r, e/seats, immob, CD, leather, alloys. In red	£3995
02 52		

Epica proportions give value

TestDriving

by
IAN DOOLEY

Chevrolet Epica

CHEVROLET'S stock in trade in the UK so far has been compact cars like the Matiz and Lacetti.

That changed with the arrival of the Chevrolet Epica in April – a Mondeo-sized car for Focus money.

At a whisker over 4.8 metres in length, the Epica is a four-door saloon of generous proportions, yet it commanded an entry-level price of just £13,595 at launch. Never has so much car cost so little.

You won't find stand-out, look-at-me design as part of the Epica's list of attributes, though. That's not to say the big Chevrolet is bland – far from it.

Graceful, simple lines and a solid stance mean you'll never have to make excuses for its purchase. And being a large saloon in a world made up extensively of hatchbacks, the four-door form adds a welcome executive twist.

Staying with the straightforward approach, Chevrolet offers the Epica with a choice of 2.0-litre petrol and diesel engines. The former is a smooth six-cylinder unit boasting a respectable 141bhp and can be had in entry-level LS trim.

The 148bhp, four-cylinder diesel can be had in both LS and range-topping LT trim though. Both cars come with a slick five-speed manual gearbox, with a six-speed



SPACIOUS: The spacious Chevrolet Epica – a whole lot of car for not a lot of money

auto a cost option on the LT diesel.

Irrespective of the economic climate, the diesel and its 46.3mpg figure for the combined economy cycle makes a lot of sense. It's smooth, refined and a willing performer. Tested in manual gearbox form, the package delivers effortless cruising ability at motorway speeds – something company car drivers will enjoy – while the torquey engine requires few revs and even fewer gearchanges when you are driving around town.

Another plus point is the Epica's ride on poorly surfaced roads, thanks in part to its long wheelbase.

The hushed cabin is another sign, if you needed it, that the car is more sophisticated than its asking price suggests. Factor in the Epica's large boot and parallels with premium saloons costing many times more are suddenly no laughing matter.

It's not just the quiet cabin ambience that's worthy of praise, as there's plenty of space for

a full complement of adult passengers. Front seat occupants get the best deal, although those in the rear fair pretty well. Head and legroom is not in short supply, a sentiment that also describes the situation regarding equipment levels.

European car makers still have some way to go in order to match the generosity of the emerging competition. Even in LS trim the Epica comes with the level of kit you'd expect to see on a more expensive car: air con, cruise control, electric windows and mirrors, twin front, side and curtain airbags, CD player plus aux socket for MP3 players, remote audio controls, front fog lamps and alloy wheels.

Move up to the diesel – only in LT spec – and you gain climate control, leather upholstery plus heated front seats, rear parking sensors, trip computer, stability control, in-dash CD changer and powered driver's seat.

If it's your own money and you're seeking a spacious traditional saloon the Epica makes a

DrivingStats

- Chevrolet Epica 2.0 LT Diesel from £16,595
- Engine: 2.0-litre diesel developing 148bhp
- Transmission: six-speed auto as standard, driving the front wheels
- Performance: Maximum speed 124mph, 0-62mph 9.7 seconds
- Economy: 46.3mpg
- CO2 Rating: 169g/km



lot of sense. Well equipped on the inside and classy on the outside, Chevrolet's attempt at a mid-size car is commendable.

With keen pricing and, most importantly, a diesel and auto gearbox option, the Epica delivers the goods were it counts – on the road and in your pocket.

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04 53 VECTRA 2-2 SXI AUTO PAS AIRC 4 DR GREEN MET 27000 MILES.....£5495
00 X ZAFIRA 1-8 COMFORT AUTO PAS AIRC GREEN 55000 MILES.....£3995

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07 07 SCENIC GRAND DYNAMIQUE 2-0 AUTO PAS AIRC GREY 10000MILES.....£6995
07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 16000 MILES.....£6995
07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 9000 MILES.....£7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIRC QUARTZ GOLD 14000 MILES.....£7995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 2-0 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 17000 MILES.....£6995
06 56 RENAULT KANGOO 1-6 EXPRESSION BLUE PAS AUTO 4000 MILES.....£6995
05 55 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 7000 MILES.....£7495
05 55 MODUS 1-6 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AIRC SDR PURPLE 33000 MILES.....£4995
05 05 LAGUNA 2-0 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 30000 MILES.....£6995
05 05 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 9000MILES.....£6995
05 05 KANGOO 1-6 AUTHENTIQUE AUTO PAS MET SILVER 14000 MILES.....£6495

MERCEDES BENZ

07 07 C180 KOMP AVANTGARDE SE 4 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 13000 MILES.....£16995
06 56 C220 CDI AVANTGARDE DIESEL SE EST AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES.....£18995
06 56 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS SDR BLUE 2000 MILES.....£10995
06 56 A CLASS 160 CLASSIC SE DIESEL AUTO PAS SDR GOLD 2000 MILES.....£11995
06 06 C180 COMPRESSOR SE COUPE AUTO PAS AIRC BLACK 15000 MILES.....£13995
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06 06 C180 COMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 26000 MILES.....£13995
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06 06 C180 COMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 18000 MILES.....£13995
05 55 NEW ACLASS 150 AVANTGARDE SE AUTO PAS SILVER 20000 MILES.....£6995
05 55 C180 KOMP ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS SILVER LEATHER 19000 MILES.....£14995
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05 05 C180 COMPRESSOR ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES.....£13995
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03 53 Vaneo 1-6 FAMILY ESTATE AUTO PAS RED AIRC 29000 MILES.....£5495
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Corsa



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	55	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Ultra blue	12,380	5,150
06	56	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Air blue	15,800	7,495
08	08	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	4,700	13,995
05	55	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Ultra blue	12,380	5,150
06	56	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Air blue	15,800	7,495
08	08	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	4,700	13,995
08	08	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Star silver	TBA	10,495
08	08	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Metro blue	TBA	11,345
08	08	Corsa Design	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	10,495
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Flame red	TBA	9,495
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795

Astra



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
00	00*	Astra Club Auto	1.6	5	Silver	37,000	2,695
05	55	Astra Breeze	1.6	5	Silver lightening	38,000	6,795
06	06	Astra Sxi CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	20,850	7,695
07	07	Astra Energy Auto	1.8	5	Star Silver	15,300	7,575
07	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Panacotta	8,275	9,995
07	57	Astra Club CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	10,680	9,695
07	57	Astra SRI	1.8	5	Silver Lightning	9,650	8,995
07	57	Astra Sport Twin Top	1.8	2	Star Silver	14,650	11,995
08	57	Astra Breeze Plus	1.7D	5	Star silver	12,300	10,995
08	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Star silver	17,300	10,495
08	08	Astra SXI	1.4	5	Black Sapphire	6,300	9,495
08	08	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Star Silver	9,350	10,495
08	08	Exclusive IS200 Conv	1.9D	2	Black	8,885	16,995
08	08	Sxi Sports Hatch	1.4	3	Star silver	7,350	9,995
08	08	Sxi CDTi Ext pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	5,630	13,995
08	08	Sxi Sports Hatch	1.4	3	Black sapphire	3,200	9,995
08	08	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Star silver	3,460	10,895
08	08	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Moonland	4,500	9,495
08	08	Astra Breeze Plus	1.4	3	Black sapphire	TBA	10,495
08	08	Astra Breeze	1.4	5	Black sapphire	TBA	9,995

Signum



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	57	Exclusiv CDTi Nav	1.9D	5	Star silver	9,950	12,995

Agila



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
01	51	Agila Enjoy	1.2	5	Green tea	76,350	2,595
08	08	Agila Design	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	1,750	9,350

Vectra



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	05	Vectra Sri	2.2	5	Star silver	30,550	6,995
05	55	Exclusive CDTi Est	1.9D	5	Star silver	23,800	7,995
08	57	CDTi Excl Auto	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	5,350	11,995
08	08	Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	9,380	10,495
08	08	Vectra Exclusiv	1.8	5	Black sapphire	6,000	8,495

Tigra



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Star silver	15,975	9,495
08	08	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Antigua	9,650	11,995

Meriva



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
04	04	Meriva Life A/c	1.6	5	Spearmint silver	43,000	4,695
06	56	Design CDTi Ext pack	1.7D	5	Metro blue	29,170	7,995
08	08	Meriva CDTi Breeze +	1.3D	5	Star silver	3,350	11,995
08	08	Meriva Life A/c	1.4	5	Lancelot	2,870	8,495
08	08	Meriva Breeze	1.4	5	Black sapphire	12,500	8,995

Zafira



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	05	Zafira Life	1.8	5	Ultra blue	38,250	5,995
05	05	Zafira Design	1.6	5	Star silver	39,000	6,195
05	05	Zafira Life A/c	1.8	5	Star silver	52,300	5,995
05	55	New Zafira Life A/c	1.6	5	Flame red	31,650	6,995
08	08	New Breeze CDTi +	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,985	13,995
08	08	Zafira Club CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	8,500	12,495
05	55	Zafira Club	1.6	5	Silver lightening	43,000	7,145

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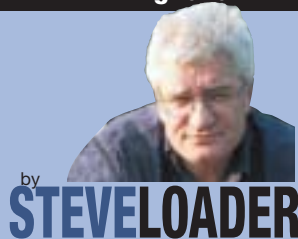
**Managers Car
of the Week**



2008 (08)
Corsa VXR 1.6
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£13,995



DrivingReview



by
STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Renault Clio

FOR all the talk about global warming and recession, plus volatile fuel prices, many people cannot link any with the word 'downsize'.

Our family is not alone in driving a car bigger than our needs; I can talk up the virtues of this family hatchback or that supermini as much as I like, but the 'boss' gets sentimental about our RAV4 when I suggest downsizing.

Yet so many smaller cars can now safely do the job of bigger brethren.

Jaunty

There are exceptions, of course, but the latest Renault Clio is not one of them. It has been Renault's star car over several generations since bursting on the scene in 1990 with those memorable 'Nicole' ads and its jaunty 'Johnny and Mary' theme.

The current car is one of the UK's top three sellers in the supermini sector – no mean feat considering that the previous generation car continues as the budget Clio Campus model and must inevitably cannibalise some volume for the current third generation car.

New Clio fits the drive to downsize



But you can see why Renault does it; the old car still has its chic charm and takes the fight to Far East rivals on price, while the new car is that potential answer to owners of bigger cars looking to downsize.

Our flagship trim Dynamique S model certainly has the spec and internal style to make

them feel at home, while the overall refinement and space of the Clio range is also tempting.

Where they will be torn is on engine choice; there are no duds in the line-up, but Renault's vastly improved diesels make a powerful argument if you do enough miles to claw back the purchase premium later

through better economy plus cheaper fuel prices and road tax.

The most powerful diesel, the 105bhp 1.5dCi, was fitted to our car and really gives a big car feel in its response and high-speed refinement on the motorway yet should average around 60mpg – ask yourself how close

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(56) HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.4 ARCTIC AUTO, 3 Dr, Black, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, ONLY 3400 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 7 **£5995**

(56) KIA PICANTO 1.1 LX AUTO, 5 Dr, Black, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD Player, ONLY 8800 Miles, Ins. Gp 3, RFL £120 p.a. **£5695**

(W) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB AUTO, 5 Dr, Red, Power Steering, C/Locking, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 21100 Miles, 5 Vauxhall Service Stamps, Ins. Gp 3 **£2995**

(51) PROTON SATRA 1.5 LUX AUTO, 3 Dr, Gold, Air Conditioning, Power Steering, C/Locking, E/F/Windows, Alloys, 46700 Miles, 5 Service Stamps, Ins. Gp 12 **£1995**

(53) TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 T SPIRIT, 3 Dr, Silver, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD Player, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 28000 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 4 **£4995**

(06) DAIHATSU SIRION 1.3 S, 5 Dr, Silver, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD, 23900 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 6, RFL £120 p.a., Up To 55 Mpg **£4995**

(54) SUKUKI WAGON R+ 1.3 GL, 5 Dr, Met.Green, Air Con, Power Steering, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, Airbags, CD, 26000 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 3 **£4495**

(52) NISSAN ALMERA TINO 1.8 SE, 5 Dr, Silver, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD Player, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 38300 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 6 **£3695**

(51) MAZDA 323 1.6 GSI, 5 Dr, Met.Blue, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, Alloys, Sunroof, 68000 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 7 **£2695**

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STAR CAR: The Renault Clio has been a popular since the early 1990s and is still a top-three seller in the UK supermini sector

you are to that with your current car.

OK, the road tax busts through into the £120/year category, so you might want to check out the lower output 85bhp version of the same powerplant. This will cost you just £35/year in road tax and should boost you well over the 60mpg average mark.

The Clio is also vastly improved in the handling stakes; I remember a driving a Mark 1 diesel and hooting at its old French-style 'door-handle cornering' stance when pushed – not to mention the old generation diesel's bag of nails impression under the bonnet.

That's all changed; the Mark III gives a good pliant ride but there is never any doubt about grip and direction on the winding stuff.

Moving on to living with the car, the cabin looks and feels well-made though the quality of the door grab handles lets the side down – it is odd how manufacturers sometimes skimp in areas where owners are most likely to feel where corners have been cut, such as handles, steering wheels and switchgear.

But this is a minor criticism of an interior that is airy and spacious and pleasant to be in. Rear head and legroom is excellent for this



class of car and is not bought at the price of a poor boot.

I was also pleased to see plenty of stowage space front and back though would-be downsizers who are still unconvinced that a quality Clio will suit them, can also look at the estate

– sorry 'Sport Tourer' – launched recently from £11,335. It looks good and may just have that extra space you need.



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DrivingStats

- Renault Clio 1.5 dCi106 Dynamique S three-door £13,800
- Range: £9,615-16,170
- Garage stats: 3.98m by 1.71m three-door supermini
- Powertrain: 1,461cc/105bhp (106PS) four-cylinder turbodiesel driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 118mph and 0-62mph in 11.1 seconds
- How green?: category-C (£120/year) road tax - 123g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 61.4mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): *****
- Fuel tank: 55 litres/8.8 gallons
- Insurance group: 4E
- Warranty: three years/60,000miles.
- Website: www.renault.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo MiTo, Chevrolet Aveo, Citroen C2/C3, Daihatsu Sirion, Fiat Grande Punto, Ford Fiesta, Honda Jazz, Hyundai i20, Kia Rio, Mazda2, MINI, Mitsubishi Colt, Nissan Micra, Peugeot 207, Seat Ibiza, Skoda Fabia, Suzuki Swift, Toyota Yaris, Vauxhall Corsa and VW Polo.
- Skoda Fabia, Suzuki Swift, Toyota Yaris, Vauxhall Corsa and VW Polo.

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ALFA ROMEO

146 Ti, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. this car is a 2 owner from new with full service history mainly main dealer. 2.0 engine which produces 150bhp, 5 speed manual gearbox a test drive is welcome, red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

SPIDER, 3.2 V6, g571ty, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £2095, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 1.6i Saloon 4d 1596cc, 316hmo, mot--11/04/08 good runner, green, miles, £695.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

523i, SE auto metallic light green, year 2000, 19" R.S. Alloys, stunning car, good condition for year a bargain at £1750 Tel: 0777 202 4258 (PRIVATE)

7 SERIES, 735i AUTO, 2002, oxford green metallic with beige nappa exclusive, 79000 miles, £11950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v6 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr. 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), automatic, 5 door saloon, met green coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, low mileage, service history, new mot, ev x 4, em, pas, air bags, original hi-fi, only 1 owner from new, low mileage miles, £only 995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, ly04kgu, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, aluminium silver, 36000 miles, £4499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

CHARADE, Si 5dr, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, met paintwork, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric front windows/mirrors, 33000 miles, £3695, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

OPEN, Activetop 1.3, 08/2008, red leather interior pas remote central locking rear spoiler 4d exhaust pipes a/con electric windows rear wind deflector front fog lights sports seats, grey metallic, delivery miles, £12845, Chertton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MATERIA, 1.5 MPV 5d 1495cc, alloys electric door mirrors radio/cd player a/con front fog lights reverse parking sensors remote central locking, steel grey, delivery miles, £12,145, Chertton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

SIRION, 1.0 SE Hatchback 5d 998cc, 58/2008, abs pas remote c/locking radio/cd electric windows a/con reverse parking sensors, bright red, delivery miles, £895, Chertton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

TERIOS, 1.5 SX Station Wagon 5d 1497cc, 08/2008, alloys heated door mirrors remote c/locking pas a/con front fog lights reverse park sensors, metallic blue, 2,000 miles, £12,995, Chertton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, Max 5dr, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air con, cd, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, silver, 63500 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

STREAM, 2.0i SE Sport, passenger airbag, alarm, rake/reach adjustable steering column/wheel, driver's seat height adjustment, electric sunroof, seven seats seating capacity, driver airbag, remote central door locking, centre rear seat belt, full size spare wheel, radio/cassette, front/rear electric windows, electric/heated mirrors external, eternal blue pearl, 66549 miles, £6495, Barretts Honda, Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

LEXUS

IS, 200 SE, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, alcantara leather, half leather, electric seats, heated seats, power steering, stability control, abs, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, electric mirrors/windows, climate control, multi-disc cd player, electric sunroof, child locks, alloys, red, 52000 miles, £5990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A-CLASS, 1.5 A150 Classic Hatchback 3d 1498cc, 57, climate, alarm & immobiliser, cd, 1 owner, please view our website to see our full stock, more at 150 in stock, atl blue with black cloth, 12,500 miles, £10495, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

B-CLASS, 2.0TD B200 CDI SE Hatchback 5d 1992cc Autotronic, 06, alloys, parktronic, rain sensor, climate, cruise, cd, please view our website to see our full stock, more at 2000 in stock, cosmos black with grey cloth, under 33,000 miles, £15995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

C CLASS, C240 2.6 Elegance new shape auto, 1216077, power steering, abs, electric windows, air con, cruise control, electric seats, remote alarm, traction control, electric mirrors, remote central locking, front fog lamps, radio cassette, powered folding mirrors, headlamp wash, multi-view rear steering wheel, multiple airbags, 16" alloys, previously sold and serviced by ourselves, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock we will not be beaten on price! fully lsa regulated, tansanite blue metallic, 57000 miles, £6995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2005, abs body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electric door mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front head restraints height adjustable drivers seat isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag radio/cd multichanger rear wiper remote central locking service indicator side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, metallic silver, 35536 miles, £9995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

ONE, 3dr, 1x52 ucu, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, height adjustable seat, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, salt pack, yellow, 44900 miles, £6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Privilege, feb 06, 5 doors, automatic, hatchback, petrol, 13, 075 miles, metallic grey, 2 owners, 3x3 point rear seat belts, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, climate control, cruise control, drivers airbag, electric door mirrors, folding rear seats, front electric windows, front head restraints, full size spare wheel, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, lumbar support, pas, passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear electric windows, rear headrests, rear wiper, remote central locking, service indicator, side airbags, steering wheel rake adjustment, computer full service renaul history (last service 27/10/08), 2 months tax, insurance group 6, grey, £7250, KENT, 01843 585186 (PRIVATE)

TWINGO, GT TURBO, 2007, trim: cloth engine size: 1300 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, pearl black, 3000 miles, £9895, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Linear T1D 1.9, 2 previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air con, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, immobiliser, car alarm, on-board computer, tinted glass, seat height adjuster, alloys, silver metallic, 32,000 miles, £9,495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)



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Squad helps flush out the fraudsters

KENT'S biggest financial, legal and accountancy firms could soon be linked into a new Serious Fraud Office (SFO) 'early whistle-blowing' initiative to spot con-tricks before they get out of hand.

The London-based SFO has launched the initiative within the City as a first move but aims to spread the net wider in the New Year.

It comes in the wake of a week of fraud scandals, the biggest involving the once highly respected New York financier Bernard Madoff whose wheeler-dealing has sent a massive billion dollar backlash through European banks.

An SFO spokesman said: "We have written to top City financial, legal and accountancy firms, but we will probably get round to leading regional firms as well."

It has contacted senior and managing partners of the firms so that those employed in the

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

City's financial services industry can blow the whistle on any bad practices.

An online referral form allows individual workers, ex-employees, shareholders and anyone with information about suspected City fraud to contact the SFO – and information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

American model

The SFO is working closely with colleagues in the law enforcement agencies both in the UK and abroad, especially the US, and with governments and regulators.

The spokesman said: "We are not putting pressure on firms, but trying to find out through their own intelligence networks what they may be concerned about."

He said the SFO was fully aware that some-

times a firm may be a victim, but the aim was to start inquiries earlier rather than later, saving time and money.

People had already started to come through with information: "It's very much on the American model. We ask firms to come to and talk to us and we would be pragmatic and sensible. I think it's the way to go."

He said the SFO was also on the Madoff case. "It's early days, but fortunately we have a very good relationship with our American counterparts." The online special form is at www.sfo.gov.uk/cases/cityfraud/default.asp.

Its website also contains detailed information about the criteria under which the SFO can accept a case – typically it does not investigate or prosecute cases involving less than £1 million.

Anyone who wishes to report a fraud which does not appear to meet the criteria of the SFO should contact local police or the regional fraud squad.

Let's go with the cashflow

A KENT business advisory service is highlighting its website tools and guides on how firms can manage and prevent late payments.

Business Link is also working with the Institute of Credit Management to compile guidelines to give businesses of all sizes and sectors help and advice.

The guides and tools complement the help available from Business Link advisers and are designed to make it simpler for businesses to manage their cashflow.

Adviser Ian Netherton (pictured above) said: "Managing cashflow is absolutely key to business success. Firms can have full order books and the forecast for profitability might look good, but in the short-term they have to ensure they have money in the bank to pay the bills as they fall due."

"Managing cashflow effectively is not just about preventing and managing late payment, but it is a very important part of it."

"If forecasts show that late payment is going to plunge you into the red, remember that although conventional bank funding is not as easy to obtain as it was, other alternative funding may be possible including the Small Firms Loan Guarantee scheme."

Most importantly, use the online guides and tools and remember you are not alone – your accountant and Business Link advisers are there to help you."

Interactive tools and guides can be found at www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast.

The ICM Managing Cashflow Quick Checklist and Top Tips are available at www.businesslink.gov.uk/businesshelp or helpline 0845 6009 006.



Seeda loans can bridge the gap

CHAMBER of Commerce members aiming to get loans in Thanet and east Kent have been given a whole list of possible routes.

Chief executive David Foley has pinpointed bank and other financial services members who would be willing to help, such as Barclays, NatWest, Lloyds TSB and HSBC.

In his latest newsletter, he says: "If you are

still without a loan, the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) is about to make £3 million in transition loans available to help companies struggling to secure support from the commercial banking sector.

"Available through independent funding body Finance South East, the Bridging Mezzanine Debt Fund will offer firms unse-

cured loans of up to £150,000 to bridge the gap between the amount the banks can offer businesses and the amount these companies need to survive and grow.

"Successful businesses will not have to repay any capital or interest until the end of the loan period. For details, contact Seeda on 01483 484200."

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It may not be too late to claim a VAT refund

CONSUMERS who bought expensive items in the shops in November may wish they had waited until the VAT cut took effect on December 1.

But, according to business advisors Baker Tilly, it may not be too late to claim refunds in certain cases depending on when the 'tax point' for VAT purposes was created.

The firm has given some examples of when a customer can go back to the retailer/supplier and ask for a refund:

- A bed costing £1,000 was bought from a department store in

November. The customer has paid in full for the item.

But due to supply issues, the bed has not yet been delivered. In this case, although the bed has already been paid for, as the customer will not take delivery of the goods until after the VAT rate change they could return to the shop and ask for a refund.

• A solicitor has been engaged to draft a will. He issued an invoice on November 25 showing the fee for the work with VAT at 17.5 per cent. The agreed date for completion of the work is December 4. In these circumstances, as the work has not been

completed by the date of the VAT rate change, the client can ask the solicitor to issue a credit note and reissue an invoice showing VAT at 15 per cent.

• A customer receives a telephone bill in November, which he pays by direct debit. After reviewing his bill he notices that he has paid in advance for line rental covering December and January. As the customer has paid for services he will not receive until after the date of the VAT rate change, he can write to the supplier and ask for a credit note and VAT refund.

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Victoria charting her flourishing progress

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

VICTORIA Ballard put together an encouragement and reward chart as a teaching aid for her 18-month-old son Joseph when he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Now, five years on, her idea has developed into a flourishing business that is even aiming to export products around the globe.

Victoria Chart Company was launched after the former graphic designer from Sevenoaks realised the reward chart was drawing admiring glances from friends.

Ms Ballard said: "With Joseph having cerebral palsy, I knew I must give him as much encouragement and



REWARDING: Victoria with charts

praise as possible and improvement, however small, needed to be acknowledged. To help him on his way, I designed a reward chart.

"It was simple to use, great to look at and showed obvious reward. The chart proved a huge success and

caught the eye of other mothers."

She created a range of charts focusing on positive development for different age groups, behaviours and special needs.

She also contacted advisory service Business Link and the company's first three years focused on getting the products right, launching the business and selling over the internet.

Business Link advisor Ian Netherton said: "We have helped, for example, with contacts in local authorities who are interested in her products as well as UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), which has advised on their export to Australia."

Ms Ballard said: "Starting a business can be a very lonely journey and a huge learning curve, but Business Link continues to help me with a wide variety of things from contacts through to sourcing larger storage and workshop facilities.

"The future looks very promising."

A strategic location at the Nucleus

MARKETEST, the new UK branch of Lille-based online market research company Createests, has opened its first international office at the Nucleus, Dartford, with assistance from Locate in Kent and the South East England Development Agency (Seeda).

It works with a range of focus groups and panels in more than 20 countries, including France, the UK, the USA, Spain and Germany. The company intends to create five jobs over the next three years.

Investment promotion agency Locate in Kent helped the company to find suitable premises, establish a legal entity via law company Cripps Harries Hall and provided contacts with local accountants and recruitment agencies.

Paul Wooley, chief executive of Locate in Kent, said: "Its choice of location is a clear illustration of the strategic importance of Ebbsfleet International station and Thames Gateway Kent to internationally active companies."

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Poinsettia pioneers

POINSETTIAS – a Christmas favourite – are at the centre of pioneering work by East Malling Research scientists aimed at cutting environmental costs.

A project in the commercial environment at Staplehurst Nurseries has demonstrated it is possible to produce high quality poinsettias and also reduce the use of plant growth regulators (PGR) by 90 per cent.

Grown in hundreds of thousands and sold in massive quantities, poinsettias must meet strict supermarket criteria for the packaging, transportation and shelf-stacking of plants.

Top of the list of demands is that they must be between 25cm and 32cm in height. As a result the growers have traditionally used PGRs with an average of 10 sprays per plant.

The research team, led by Dr Mark Else, has successfully grown the plants by putting them into a state of mild shock by adopting a deficit irrigation system, which reduces the amount of water available.

The roots sense the soil is mildly dry and send hormones to the shoots, which limit the amount of water lost by transpiration through the leaves and the growth of the individual plant stems.

Dr Else said: "We have found we can

reduce the use of PGRs to just one spray while still producing a poinsettia that meets the standards of the buyers and has a higher shelf life."

The breakthrough could have major implications for the UK's plant growers as proposed EU legislation, which could ban the use of 85 per cent of the pesticides used in Britain, could restrict the use of PGRs. Colin Gutteridge, chief executive of EMR, said: "Our irrigation water management scientists are working on other crops, such as strawberries and potatoes, recognising that with climate change we need to develop techniques that will maintain, and possibly increase, the level of yield and quality of the food we produce."



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NEBOSH General Certificate (NGC2)	6 Days	28th Jan	£675
CITB Site Safety for Shopfitters	3 Days	30th Jan	£400
NEBOSH General Certificate (NGC1)	5 Days	2nd Feb	£675

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RT: Rate type R%: Rate percentage L: Loan U: Until
OD: Other details

FIXED

ABBEY

RT: FIXED R%: 4.49% L: 75% U: 02/03/2011

OD: £1,515

FIRST ACTIVE RBS

RT: FIXED R%: 5.20% L: 75% U: 31/01/2011

OD: £1,029

WOOLWICH

RT: FIXED R%: 4.99% L: 70% U: 31/01/2012

OD: £1,325

MARSDEN

RT: FIXED R%: 4.89% L: 70% U: 30/11/2011

OD: £974

OTHER

CHELTHAM & GLOUCESTER

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.69% L: 75% U: 30/04/2011

OD: £2,634

ABBEY

RT: TRACKER R%: 4.24% L: 75% U: 2 YEARS

OD: £1,755

BRISTOL & WEST

RT: STANDARD VARIABLE R%: 4.49% L: 75% U:

N/A OD: £465

CHELTHAM & GLOUCESTER

RT: TRACKER R%: 4.49% L: 75% U: 30/04/2011

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NORWICH UNION	£64.77
AXA	£46.91
ZURICH	£68.68
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£69.09
LEGAL & GENERAL	£70.43

COUPLE AGED 30

NORWICH UNION	£44.21
AXA	£46.91
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£47.36
PRUDENTIAL	£47.76
ZURICH	£47.81

COUPLE AGED 40

AXA	£103.47
ZURICH	£107.40
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Better times ahead for rural sector.

Pat Crawford reports.

In these times of gloom and despondency, there is one area of business that is bucking the trend and showing signs of an ongoing revival.

The rural sector embraces all the land-based industries such as agriculture and commercial horticulture (generally bracketed together under 'farming'). In recent years the CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) and other EU generated legislation have resulted in our farmers being paid in relation to countryside stewardship. Whilst no right-minded individual would argue that preservation of our countryside, conservation of wildlife and increase in biodiversity are fundamentally important to human health and way of life, it is also essential we recognise the need to produce more of our own food. This must involve a reappraisal of the ways in which we use our land.

Reappraisal is already underway. 'Food' is increasingly seen as the essential core use of

land and our farmers, who suffered some disastrously lean periods in recent years, are responding with vigour and foresight. In order to produce more food, we need more people on the land. Currently some sectors of farming such as commercial horticulture - which includes vegetable and fruit production - have a heavy reliance on seasonally available migrant labour. Present day legislation restricts the periods migrant workers can be employed and this is already resulting in shortfalls, some of which are having serious consequences. At the same time, farming is going to need more graduate and other highly trained personnel in management, research and development, marketing and other specialist areas.

Already there are signs that balances between demand and availability of highly trained and skilled labour are set to improve with Hadlow College recording a 22% growth in the take up of places in its faculty of agriculture.

When did farming - and the rural sector as a whole - last undergo revolutionary changes? The most significant have to be in relation to the Second World War when the British Isles were virtually in a siege situation and it was our farmers who saved the day. The threats we face today are different - but none the less serious. Climate change... dramatic increases to our population...reducing fossil fuel resources...instability in the price of oil.

A little while ago Defra adopted the phrase 'farming matters'. We could add 'never more than now'. We are fortunate in this country to have some of the best farmers in the world - and some of the best growing conditions on the planet. We must take full advantage of these benefits. Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, Hadlow's director of finance and resources who is responsible for the college's commercial arm that includes the development of agriculture, admits to being passionate about the part Kent can play. Commenting, he said 'Kent is well placed to lead the rural revival. We have some truly outstanding farmers and no other county can compete with the wide diversity of farming we practise. We have the formula needed to regenerate the rural sector'.



For information about Agriculture and Commercial Horticulture courses on offer at HADLOW, telephone 0500 551434.



IN THE MEDALS: Michael Skinner

Euro cross country bronze for Skinner

MICHAEL Skinner has ended the year on a high as he helped Great Britain to a bronze medal in the European Cross Country Championships and is now setting his sights on the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

The 29-year-old, from West Wickham, finished 20th in the European Championships in Brussels last Sunday, helping Great Britain clinch a team bronze behind Spain and France. He was also joined by fellow Blackheath and Bromley athlete Scott Overall who finished 39th in the competition.

Skinner was delighted to pick up a medal after missing out last year when Great Britain finished fourth.

He said: "I was pleased with my performance but more importantly as a team we finished with a medal. I ran solidly – nothing out of my skin – but it is always rewarding to run for your country as part of a team."

"I am already looking to next year's event. After missing out on a medal in fourth place for the last two years I hope we can go even better than bronze and bring back a silver medal."

Skinner hopes to focus on his track career in 2009 as he aims to make the England 5K team for the 2010 Commonwealth Games at Delhi in India.

He added: "I don't want to tie myself down to cross country and I hope to get back on the track in the New Year."

"The World Championships are in August next year and I would love to be a part of that. It would be a big step."

"I have changed my coach and things are going well and my target is to be named in the team for Commonwealth Games in 2010."

'Young Gun' going for it

Oche ace Kirk aims to go one better at World Championship

By GLENN PEARSON

KIRK Shepherd will have to not only manage the expectations of the Alexandra Palace crowd this week, but his own ambitions as well as he aims to go one further and win the PDC World Championship.

The 'Young Gun' shocked the world when he sensationally made it through to the sport's showpiece final last year where he was eventually beaten by Canadian John Part.

The 22-year-old from Ramsgate was a 500-1 outsider before last year's tournament but Shepherd produced shock after shock as he beat Barrie Bates, Mick McGowan, Terry Jenkins, Peter Manley and Wayne Mardle en route to the final as he bid to become the youngest ever world champion.

His 7-2 defeat to Part cut the fairytale ending short, but Shepherd earned £50,000 during the adventure which set him on the way to going professional.

He quit his job as a sheet metal worker in Ramsgate for a full-time post at the oche and has now also moved away from the Isle, having set up home in Birmingham with his girlfriend, who is expecting their first child.

The Young Gun was happy with his decision to go professional in a year he was also crowned PDC Young Player of the Year.

"It's been a bit up and down really, but I have been ticking along," he said. "It wasn't easy going professional but I was sensible with the money from last year and invested it. It's just good to be able to do something that you love."

Shepherd, who has climbed from 140 to 23 in the world rankings, starts his assault on this year's PDC World Championships at the Alexandra Palace against Dutch left hander Jan van der Rassel.

The Thanet man, whose style has been

Picture: LAWRENCE LUSTIG/PDC



I'LL DO IT AGAIN: Kirk Shepherd, now a full-time professional, is confident he can repeat the spectacular run which saw him make the final of last year's PDC World Championship

described as like Jockey Wilson's, will go into the first round clash on Tuesday with confidence, having defeated van der Rassel twice this year. Shepherd beat the 44-year-old 6-4 at the UK Open in June and followed that up nine days later with a narrow 3-2 win in the PDCPA Players Championship in Bristol.

"I'm pretty happy with the draw as I have played him twice this year and won both times," he said. "I have a good record against him and hopefully that will continue. I will be aiming to do the same preparation as I did last year and I'm probably looking forward to it more because of what happened last time."

Shepherd admits there will be more pressure on him because he will not be the young

unknown quantity that he was before, but he's confident he can pull off another shock at the Ally Pally.

He said: "There will be more eyes on me than last year and the expectation levels will be higher because of last year but I'm confident I can go all the way. I think my game has come on a lot and having gone pro this year has been a valuable experience."

Shepherd takes on van der Rassel on Tuesday at 2.45pm for a chance to play number-10 seed Colin Lloyd or Jelle Klassen next Sunday.

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Stones deal hits snag

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown is on the hunt for another buyer after failing to agree a deal with Lashings owner David Folb.

Folb confirmed his interest in buying the Stones immediately after the club was put up for sale by Bowden-Brown earlier this month.

However, despite a number of meetings with the Stones chairman, life-long Maidstone fan Folb was unable to agree a deal and hopes another solution for the club's future can be found.

He said: "It is with regret that I am unable to pursue my interest in purchasing Maidstone United. Unfortunately I was unable to agree on a deal and have reluctantly had to accept I cannot take over the club at this moment in time."

"The economic climate means this is a very difficult time to be running a football club and I have every sympathy for Paul."

"It's a very complicated process but I very much hope that another solution can be found to help the club through these difficult times."

Bowden-Brown is disappointed a deal has not been agreed and will remain in charge of the day to day running of the club until a buyer has been found.

He said: "I, like many connected with the club, will be disappointed by this news. It would have been good to have had something in place before Christmas but I can reassure everyone that this wasn't our only iron in the fire and that as one door closes, another opens."



NEW DEAL? Mark Robson

Coach Robbo set to stay at Priestfield

THE prospect of Gillingham first-team coach Mark Robson signing a contract has improved after he missed out on two managerial vacancies.

He was reportedly interested in the position at struggling League One side Crewe Alexandra, but they look set to name either John Ward or Gudjon Thordarson. Similarly he was not included on Swindon Town's shortlist.

Gills boss Mark Stimson is keen to tie Robson to a two-and-a-half year deal and believes it will go ahead despite the delay.

He said: "We're still negotiating with Mark. It might take a bit longer than when

we first thought, but he's still happy at the moment and that's the most important thing."

Stimson has begun outlining his targets for the January transfer window, with the experienced Micah Hyde on trial.

The 34-year-old was released from Peterborough this month and played for Gills' reserves on Wednesday as he hopes to secure a contract next month.

The Gills boss could also be set to launch a bid to bring Chris Dickson back to the club after the striker handed in a transfer request to Charlton Athletic this week.

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'What a year'

Excellent 12 months for the women's team points to further success in 2009, says England skipper



With **CHARLOTTE EDWARDS**

AS WE close what has been a fantastic year for the England cricket team, I can't help thinking how big a year 2009 will be for us and the women's game in general.

Not only have we got a World Cup, world Twenty20 and an Ashes battle to think about, there is also now a change to our domestic structure which means more cricket for us next season and that is certainly something I am looking forward to.

The announcement that the domestic LV County Championship has been extended to include more teams means we will be playing more games, which is brilliant

news and has been long overdue.

We will now be playing twice the number of championship games in 2009, which will make it a lot more competitive. The England team have been successful for a while now, but there was not perhaps enough emphasis on county cricket, so it is important that there is a strong domestic tournament which will give teams more to play for.

At Kent, we were pipped to the title last time out but we feel that over the course of a much longer season, the best team will come out on top and we are confident we will reclaim our title which Sussex won last season.

There's also a domestic Twenty20 tournament which I think can help the women's game progress and will be a real highlight for all the players.

The tournament is going to be great for women's cricket because it will give some of the younger players more experience of playing the short form of the game, which they can then also take into the County Championship.

With it being such an exciting and explosive game, it is an opportunity to get more people interested in watching domestic cricket and we have a chance to raise the profile of the game. It's something I have been badgering the England and Wales Cricket Board about

and I'm glad they have listened to the players.

Since the cricket season finished I managed to have a short break but I started training again at the start of October and I can tell you that I feel the fittest I have ever been, and I hope that will stand me in good stead ahead of such a big year.

We have three massive series with the World Cup, the Ashes and the Twenty20 in the space of three or four months, and it's hard to comprehend how important it is.

We have a fantastic opportunity to showcase the women's game on a global scale. It's really hard, but I'm going to take it one series at a time. We can't think too far ahead.

Some England players are already in Australia playing in their domestic league, which will help them and their games. I travel out with the rest of the squad in February and can't wait. After such a successful season in which we won 15 games in a row, I didn't want it to end and hope we can carry that momentum with us to Australia.

As a result of our success, a lot of people have been saying we are one of the favourites for the World Cup, but I think they are a little wide of the mark. We are playing good cricket but the players feel that Australia are



Picture: ADY KERRY

BODES WELL: Charlotte Edwards says England's success this year is something they can build on in a busy 2009 campaign

the favourites. They have been the best team for the last 10 years and there's no getting away from that.

I'm glad people are worried about us and even though I feel Australia are the team to beat, we don't fear them and believe we can beat them.

I think any one of Australia, New Zealand and England could win, which should make for a good tournament. I'm just happy with the cricket our team are playing and can't wait to get cracking on what is going to be the biggest year of our cricketing lives.

• *Charlotte Edwards, the Kent and England women's cricket captain, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.*

Kent to face Aussies in packed fixture list

KENT will take on the visiting Australians in a two-day game at Canterbury ahead of the fifth and final Test of the 2009 Ashes series.

Kent are scheduled to take on Ricky Ponting's Australians in a two-day game on August 15.

The fixtures for the 2009 season have been announced and pits Rob Key's side against Northamptonshire at Canterbury on the opening day of the LV County

Championship on April 21.

Kent will play a three-day university match against Loughborough at St Lawrence before the opening game in Division Two, when the students arrive on April 15.

Beckenham will host two Twenty20 games against both Middlesex Crusaders and Sussex Sharks, while the Kent Spitfires will play five floodlit matches,

with the only one at Canterbury being against the Surrey Brown Caps in the Pro40 on August 27.

Essex are the opponents for the Tunbridge Wells festival which starts on June 16, while Middlesex are the visitors for Canterbury cricket week on August 5.

Key's side end their County Championship campaign at St Lawrence against Leicestershire on September 15.



Picture: ADY KERRY

BUSY SCHEDULE: Rob Key

KENT FIXTURES 2009

- Wednesday, April 15 – MCC Universities Match – Kent v Loughborough UCCE – Canterbury
- Tuesday April 21: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Northamptonshire – Canterbury
- Sunday April 26: Friends Provident Trophy – Somerset v Kent – Taunton
- Wednesday, April 29: LV County Championship – Division Two Essex v Kent – Chelmsford
- Sunday May 3: Friends Provident Trophy – Middlesex v Kent – TBC
- Monday, May 4: Friends Provident Trophy – Kent v Scotland – Canterbury
- Wednesday, May 6: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Glamorgan – Canterbury
- Sunday, May 10: Friends Provident Trophy – Kent v Warwickshire – Canterbury
- Monday, May 11: Friends Provident Trophy – Kent v Middlesex – Canterbury
- Saturday, May 16: Friends Provident Trophy – Kent v Somerset – Canterbury
- Monday, May 18: Friends Provident Trophy – Scotland v Kent – The Citylets Grange
- Wednesday, May 20: Friends

Provident Trophy – Warwickshire v Kent – Edgbaston

- Monday, May 25: The Twenty20 Cup – Kent v Essex – Canterbury
- Wednesday, May 27: The Twenty20 Cup – Middlesex v Kent – TBC
- Friday, May 29: The Twenty20 Cup – Kent v Middlesex – Beckenham
- Sunday, May 31: The Twenty20 Cup – Kent v Sussex – Beckenham
- Monday, June 1: The Twenty20 Cup – Essex v Kent – Chelmsford
- Thursday, June 4: The Twenty20 Cup – Sussex v Kent – Hove
- Saturday, June 6: LV County Championship – Division Two – Leicestershire v Kent – Grace Road
- Tuesday, June 16: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Hampshire – Canterbury
- Monday, June 22: The Twenty20 Cup – Kent v Hampshire – Canterbury
- Wednesday, June 24: The Twenty20 Cup – Surrey v Kent – The Brit Oval
- Friday, June 26: The Twenty20 Cup – Hampshire v Kent – The Rose Bowl
- Sunday, June 28: The Twenty20 Cup – Kent v Surrey – Canterbury

Tuesday, June 30: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Gloucestershire – Canterbury

- Friday, July 10: LV County Championship – Division Two – Surrey v Kent – The Brit Oval
- Wednesday, July 15: LV County Championship – Division Two – Glamorgan v Kent – The SWALEC Stadium
- Tuesday, July 21: NatWest Pro40 Division Two – Glamorgan v Kent – The SWALEC Stadium
- Friday, July 31: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Derbyshire – Canterbury
- Wednesday, August 5: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Middlesex – Canterbury
- Sunday, August 9: NatWest Pro40 Division Two – Kent v Middlesex – Canterbury
- Tuesday, August 11: LV County Championship – Division Two – Northamptonshire v Kent – Northampton
- Saturday, August 15: Other Match – Kent v Australia – Canterbury
- Tuesday, August 18: NatWest Pro40

Division Two – Leicestershire v Kent – Grace Road

- Sunday, August 23: NatWest Pro40 Division Two – Derbyshire v Kent – Chesterfield
- Thursday August 27: NatWest Pro40 Division Two – Kent v Surrey – Canterbury
- Friday, August 28: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Surrey – Canterbury
- Wednesday, September 2: LV County Championship – Division Two – Derbyshire v Kent – Derby
- Sunday, September 6: NatWest Pro40 Division Two – Lancashire v Kent – Old Trafford
- Wednesday, September 9: LV County Championship – Division Two – Middlesex v Kent – Uxbridge
- Sunday, September 13: NatWest Pro40 Division Two – Kent v Warwickshire – Canterbury
- Tuesday, September 15: LV County Championship – Division Two – Kent v Leicestershire – Canterbury
- Wednesday, September 23: LV County Championship – Division Two – Gloucestershire v Kent – Bristol
- Sunday, September 27: NatWest Pro40 Division Two – Kent v Northamptonshire – Canterbury

Khan left out again

AMJAD Khan missed out on making his Test debut against India once again as England opted to bring back Stuart Broad to replace Steve Harmison.



Despite comments from the England camp during the week that reverse swing would be key in the second Test with the incoming Indians, captain Kevin Pietersen decided to make just one change from the side that lost in Chennai.

Khan, well known for his ability to reverse swing the old ball, missed out as Nottinghamshire seamer Broad was named in the starting line-up after recovering from injury.

The Kent pace bowler will return with the rest of the England team next week.

Khan will be hoping he impressed the England management team enough for a place in the squad for the tour to the West Indies at the end of January.

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DARTS

'Young Gun' Shepherd aims to go one better in bid for world title **70**



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Sport

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CRICKET

Charlotte Edwards looks back on a great year for the England women's team **71**



Golfer will have to go back to Q-school after injury ruins hopes of retaining Tour card

DANI Masters says she felt "sick with disappointment" after making the heartbreaking decision to retire from the Dubai Masters and lose her Tour card for next season.

The 25-year-old from Maidstone had a wretched 2008 season, which was ruined by a succession of injuries. She recovered just in time to play in the last tournament of the season last weekend, but a recurrence of a back injury forced her to pull out in the second round.

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID PRITCHARD

Her chances of playing on the Ladies European Tour in 2009 now rest solely on her performance at Qualifying School next month.

Masters told Kent on Sunday earlier this month how excited she was to be fit enough to compete in Dubai.

However, her enthusiasm proved to be her downfall. Too much golf in the build-up to the tournament led to the problems with her back resurfacing during the second round.

"There were quite a few tears when I had to retire," she said. "It was a massive disappointment because I worked so hard and felt I had done everything I needed to do."

"I had done so much in the eight weeks and been so dedicated that to only play 27 holes I was absolutely gutted. I felt sick with disappointment and like I had let myself down."

Tough

After five months away from competitive golf, Masters needed a good finish at the Emirates Golf Club to stand a chance of finishing in the top 80 players on the Tour's Money List, who are exempt for the 2009 season. The withdrawal left her 109th, less than £10,000 short of the cut-off mark.

It leaves the Chart Hills member with an uncertain future after three promising years on the professional circuit.

She has one chance to regain her card for next season, the notoriously tough Q-School. The 72-hole tournament at the luxury La Manga resort in southern Spain will act as the last-chance saloon for many hopefuls, with the top 30 given access to the potential riches on the Tour in 2009.

The first hurdle is whether Masters' back will stand up to four days of intense competition.

She said: "It's an unknown, my body's always been able to cope with everything but all of a sudden it's not right. I now know I should not do what I did before and play a lot of golf beforehand. The way I look at it is

DISASTER IN DUBAI FOR DANI



PULLED OUT: Dani Masters' hopes of holding onto her Ladies European Tour card were wrecked in Dubai after a recurrence of the back injury which has plagued her season

I played four rounds pain free in Dubai and I can't see why I couldn't do that again."

Masters negotiated qualifying three years ago to win her card and is hoping the experience will stand her in good stead this time.

If she did miss out, it would mean a year on the sidelines before trying her luck at Q-School in 12 months' time, something she has been forced to contemplate.

"I would be distraught if I failed, but you move on," she said. "I'm really passionate about golf, but it's not the be all and end all."

"If something happened which meant I couldn't carry on I would have to do something else."

"I wouldn't just give up. With all the injuries this year it would be nice to give myself another chance next year if I didn't make it this time."

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European Open to return to county

THE London Golf Club has set its sights on attracting more than 100,000 spectators to the European Open next year after the tournament was again awarded to the Kent course.

The four-day Open in July was the first time the club, near Ash, had hosted an event on the European Tour. Despite being hit by bad weather on the final day, about 61,000 people attended the tournament, which featured a top-class field including Sergio Garcia, Padraig Harrington and Ian Poulter.

It was the first top-level men's golf tournament to be held in Kent since Royal St George's in Sandwich hosted The Open Championship in 2003.

The European Tour announced this week the Open would be returning to the club's Heritage Course. Heath Harvey, general manager at the London Club, was delighted with the maiden tournament but is hoping for more in 2009.

"On the whole most things exceeded our expectations," he said. "We are just hellbent on growing the attendance to in excess of 100,000."

"There's no point in putting the tournament

on unless you can make it as big as possible. Our ambition is to make this one of the biggest events in Kent next year."

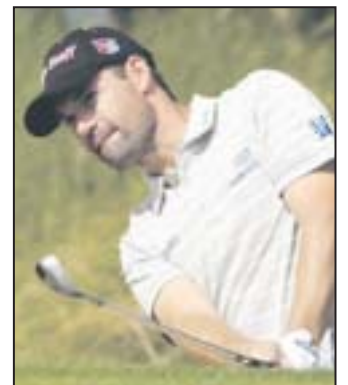
Kent on Sunday revealed in July talks had already begun to bring the Open back to the club, but the announcement was delayed by problems finding a sponsor.

The Tour bankrolled this year's tournament to the tune of £3.7 million, but were not prepared to do so again. A sponsor is due to be unveiled soon, which allowed the Tour to announce their decision to return to Kent next May.

Despite the uncertainty, the club were confident of retaining the tournament and within weeks of this year's event, had begun a £100,000 groundworks programme.

Several new tees have been installed to make the course tougher, while minor improvements will be made throughout the spring.

Harvey said: "Work has never stopped, we will continue to tweak the course to enhance it as a top-class tournament venue. None of that would have happened if we never thought it wasn't coming back."



CHAMPION: Reigning Open title holder Padraig Harrington will return to the London Club for the 2009 European Open